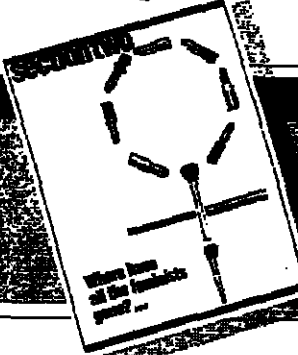




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SECTION TWO

THE DISAPPEARED



THE COPYCAT MURDER

COMBUSTION MOUNTAIN

THE COPYCAT MURDER

West: I never saw women under cellar

Wife tells of life with Fred West

WILL BENNETT

Rosemary West yesterday denied she had ever set eyes on five young women whose remains were found in the cellar of the house where she lived with her husband, Frederick.

She was passed photographs of Carol Cooper, Therese Siegenthaler, Shirley Hubbard, Lucy Partington and Juanita Mott at Winchester Crown court. Asked by Richard Ferguson QC, defending, if she had ever seen them, she replied: "No sir."

Once, after looking at a photograph of Lucy Partington, she wiped her eyes with a handkerchief but otherwise she showed no emotion as she completed her first day in the witness box.

She was not always so impassive during the day, frequently weeping as she told the court of her life with Frederick West. He was charged with 12 murders and was found dead in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

A short, dumpy, bespectacled figure, dressed in a black jacket and a bottle-green skirt, Mrs West left the dock for the first time on the 17th day of her trial for the murders of 10 girls and young women. She denies all the charges.

Speaking with a strong West Country accent, she denied a claim by Elizabeth Agius, a former neighbour, that she and Mr West used to go out in their car looking for young girls to get into prostitution.

She said that Charmaine West, the daughter of Mr West's first wife, Rena, by another man, had been difficult and disruptive when she was bringing



"All I can remember is being very frightened. Fred was a threat ... I was pleading with Fred all the time for it to stop. I didn't want to get involved in anything like this"

— Rosemary West giving evidence yesterday

her up and that her husband had arranged for the girl to go back to her mother.

Mrs West, who is charged with murdering Charmaine, said: "Fred said that he had got in contact with Charmaine's mum and that she had agreed to have Charmaine if that was what Charmaine wanted and that she was coming to the house to pick her up."

"He advised me that I would be better off if I wasn't around. He said that his wife would not have liked the fact that I was taking her place in Fred's affections."

Mrs West said that she saw Rena West, who Mr West was later charged with murdering, when she arrived, and broke down in tears as Rena had walked "straight past" her. When she came back that

evening, Mr West told her that Charmaine, whose remains were found at the Wests' former home, 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, had gone off with her mother to Scotland and was "very happy about it".

Mrs West also told the court that she had tried to stop the sexual assault on Caroline Owens in 1972 when she realised that the girl had not consented to sex with herself and her husband. Both the Wests were subsequently fined after pleading guilty to assault and indecent assault.

Mrs West said: "I remember Fred saying to me about getting involved with Caroline Owens in a lesbian relationship which would have been my first experience with a woman. He did persuade me that Caroline Owens was willing to try it out."

"As soon as she put up resistance, as soon as I realised that she was against this, that she did not agree with it in any way I stopped. All I can remember is being very frightened. Fred was a threat at this moment in time."

"I was pleading with Fred all the time for it to stop. I didn't want to get involved in anything like this. I didn't want Caroline to get hurt. It was just a mess."

She said that she could not remember taking Mrs Owens back to their home, adding: "I have tried very hard to remember these events but I just can't. I was a young girl, I had been coaxed into this situation."

"It was terrifying, I believe that I was as much a victim as Caroline was," said Mrs West who added that she had been intimidated and that she had never broken the law before. The trial continues today.

Short says sorry as Blair reads riot act



Close call: Clare Short in Bedford yesterday. She and her Shadow Cabinet colleagues will be told to toe the line on policy or face the sack

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Leader's warning against stepping out of line

The Shadow Cabinet will be warned tomorrow by Tony Blair to toe the line on policy or face the sack, after Clare Short gave a fulsome public apology for overstepping the mark on the legalisation of cannabis.

The Labour leader's office made it clear last night that after being given a carpeting, Ms Short was not at risk of losing her position as shadow Transport Secretary.

But Mr Blair's message to Shadow Cabinet colleagues will carry the clear threat that if they step over the line in future, they will be sacked. The leadership used the con-

trovery to show the smack of firm leadership by Mr Blair. But there was deep irritation because it deflected attention from Labour's attack yesterday on the "right-wing lurch" by the Tories over policy on Europe, the economy and the NHS.

Roger Freeman, a Cabinet minister, said the Labour leader was angry because Ms Short "kiboshed" his party's public relations exercise. Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, said it was extraordinary that "someone who could be a minister of the Crown should actually want to legalise some drugs".

Ms Short was given sympathy, but no support by her friends for making the mistake of speaking her mind at the weekend in the *Breakfast with Frost* interview on BBC television.

She issued her apology after a half-hour meeting with Mr Blair in his private office at the Commons. A Labour leadership source said Mr Blair reminded Ms Short that all members of the Shadow Cabinet, to which she was elected a fortnight ago, were bound by collective responsibility and every statement would come under intense scrutiny.

In her statement, Ms Short

said: "I should not have responded to David Frost in the way that I did. I was explaining why I supported a Commons motion on the issue many years ago but I should have realised how it would be used against me and the party."

"That was a view I held then, but the party has looked at the issue very seriously. It has a clear position against legalisation of drugs and I am perfectly happy with that. I am sorry too that a few remarks on drugs at the end of an interview on transport issues has provided a distraction from the real political issue of the moment - the lurch to the

right of the Tory party. I am of course aware of the need for collective responsibility and I am happy to abide by it in future."

The determination of the Tories to avoid disruption in their own ranks was underlined last night by Sir Norman Fowler, the former Conservative Party chairman, who ruled himself out as a candidate for the chairmanship of the 1992 Committee of Tory MPs.

He urged MPs to back Sir Marcus Fox, the present chairman, against the challenge by Bob Dunn, a right winger. Sir Norman said the party needed "stability" in the run-up to the general election.

Leading article, page 16

Major and Chirac cuddle up for entente nucleaire

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Diplomatic Editor

Britain and France agreed yesterday to deepen their nuclear co-operation and John Major made his most robust defence yet of the controversial French tests in the South Pacific.

Standing with the visiting French President, Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister said no head of a nuclear state could have ignored scientific advice that testing was needed to ensure a safe and reliable deterrent. "On that basis I have offered the president my support," said Mr Major.

The British government sent a clear message from the Anglo-French summit that it intends to ride out the storm of protest against the tests from Commonwealth nations in the



Chirac: Praise for British

interests of what Mr Major and Mr Chirac christened their "global partnership".

Issuing a statement redolent of the old entente cordiale, they declared: "We do not see situations arising in which the

vital interests of either France or the United Kingdom could be threatened without the vital interests of the other also being threatened."

The secretive Joint Nuclear Commission, which brings together British and French experts, will meet to determine ways of strengthening nuclear co-operation.

Mr Chirac, while fulsome in his praise of the British government, denied that these enhanced ties between London and Paris diminished the importance of the link between France and Germany, which he described as "a friendship - not an axis".

Mr Chirac said he found a refreshing change in the tone of Anglo-French exchanges since he last participated in such discussions - which was during the

premiership of Margaret Thatcher. "One no longer hears phrases of ill-humour and aggressiveness," said Mr Chirac.

The French President made it clear, however, that Britain and France retained different views on the future of Europe. Mr Chirac said France was committed to monetary union but said Britain's right to opt out would be respected.

In a sign that some discreet haggling has taken place over the new Secretary-General of Nato, both Mr Major and Mr Chirac said they would strongly support the former Dutch Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, if he became an official candidate, putting an end to speculation that a British contender might come forward to succeed Willy Claes of Belgium.

Major meets Chirac, page 8

Scientists open way to a safe suntan

STEVE CONNOR
Science Correspondent

A pill that causes skin to tan naturally has come a step nearer with the discovery of the fundamental reason why many fair-skinned people fail to go brown in the sun. Scientists believe the finding opens the way to designing drugs to tan the fairest skin of red-haired people, decreasing their risk of developing skin cancer.

A team of British scientists, led by Professor Tony Thody of Newcastle University, has identified key genetic changes in fair-skinned people that make them unable to produce enough brown-black skin pigmentation, which protects against the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation.

Professor Thody said that enables researchers to begin the search for "tanning agents" to reverse the process. "It's possi-

ble that we may be able to switch on their cells," he said. "The discovery of genetic changes in fair-skinned people opens the way for a medical test that can identify people who are at high risk of skin cancer."

Newcastle University researchers, working with the Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, compared the genetic material of 30 Britons with different shades of red hair with 30 tanned people with brown or black hair.

Their findings, published tomorrow in *Nature Genetics*, reveal that about 80 per cent of red-haired people carry genetic mutations that block the action of the hormone in the skin responsible for stimulating the production of the brown-black melanin pigment. Skin cancers have increased dramatically since the advent of cheap package holidays to sunny countries.

IN BRIEF			
Quebec votes Five million Quebecers voted yesterday on the fate of their province and of all of Canada. The ballot paper offered two simple options: "Oui" or "Non" to attempting at last to forge a country under their own flag and their own government. Page 8	Tate's millennium drive The Millennium Commission yesterday awarded the Tate Gallery £50m to create Britain's first national museum of modern art. It will allow the Tate to create a collection comparable in grandeur to those in New York and Paris. Page 4	Charity's \$5m bonus The Salvation Army has recovered almost \$5m more than the \$8.8m lost by the charity in a bogus investment caper involving connen with Mafia links. The Army revealed that it had recovered \$13.7m - a balance that includes interest and the cost of the international hunt for the funds. Page 2	Pension cash delayed Victims of the pension transfer scandal face long delays before they receive compensation because financial advisers are boycotting the system designed to offer redress. Page 18
Leeson strikes deal Lawyers acting for Nick Leeson are thought to have struck a deal with the Singaporean authorities in which he will face fewer charges in return for information. Page 2			

Labour		COMMENT	
Andrew Marr: Who is thinking the politically unthinkable? Page 17		Greg Parston and David Albury: What will Lord Nolan's scrutiny mean to the universities? Page 17	
News Analysis: Should cannabis be legalised? Page 15		Another View: The MP attacked by Labour for being soft on soft drugs. Page 16	
Leading Article: "High-level reticence is one of the reasons that politicians are held in low esteem by the public - they are seen to behave like school prefects rather than modern professionals." Page 16		Weather: England and Wales will be mostly dry and bright with spells of sunshine. Most parts of Scotland will be cloudy with some light rain and drizzle. Section Two, page 21	

CROSS TOWNSEND

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Thin debate: Fears for teenager's health as she quits spotlight

Teenage model takes a break to fatten up

REBECCA FOWLER

To teenage girls she may be the epitome of beauty and chic. But this week Jodie Kidd, the painfully thin 17-year-old model, announced she was taking a break from the catwalk amid growing fears for her health.

Ms Kidd's sudden departure from the spotlight, following speculation she is suffering from the eating disorder anorexia nervosa, has fuelled concern that the world's top models are acting as dangerous role models for girls.

Although Jodie Kidd, Ms Kidd's millionaire father, denied his daughter was anorexic, he said she now realised how much influence she wielded. She is travelling to Barbados to stay with her mother, where she hopes to "fatten herself up".

"It never really occurred to her before, but in the last three weeks where everyone has been talking about eating disorders she has really had to think again," Mr Kidd said. "She realises now that she has to set a better example."

The most recent images of Ms Kidd, who is 6ft 1in and reportedly under nine stone in weight, showed her looking gaunt and emaciated. Onlookers were so shocked by her appearance she withdrew from the New York shows last week.

Experts are worried that young girls' anxieties about weight are made worse by the bombardment of glossy images of unnaturally thin women.

Dr John Morgan, who works with the most severe cases of anorexia at St George's hospital, in south London, said they presented an impossible ideal. "I see patients who are being urged by their boyfriends to slim for perfect androgynous figures based on these images, but they are unnatural and unobtainable," he said.

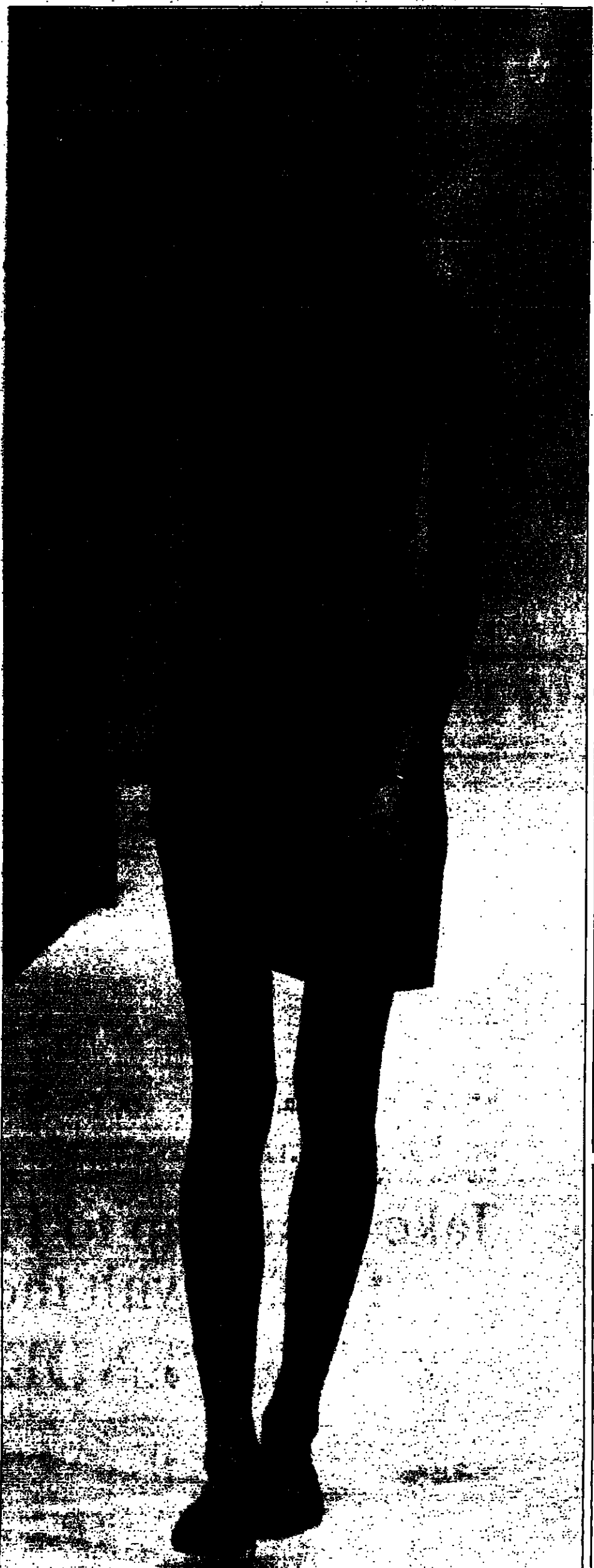
"As I flick through pages of *Vogue* there are vast numbers of models who are at a weight where they can't possibly be having periods, and are most likely anorexic."

Their concern has prompted teenage magazines to introduce policies of avoiding thin models for fashion shoots. Among publications that use more natural looking women are *Sugar* and *More*, the most popular, which has a circulation of 450,000.

"We always want models to look like real girls and we just wouldn't use thin girls because we know it affects readers a lot," said Melanie Glynn, deputy fashion editor of *More*. "When we saw the pictures of Jodie we were horrified."

The influence models have over teenage girls has fallen under increased scrutiny in the past year. A recent Calvin Klein advertisement that showed Kate Moss, the British supermodel known as the Super Waif, looking childishly thin, came under fierce attack.

Among those who have taken action is the Advertising Standards Authority, which introduced new regulations in January to prevent imagery that might promote being thin as desirable. "The supermodels are everywhere and they are certainly role models for young girls," it said.



Stepping out: Jodie Kidd on the catwalk in Milan

Photograph: Peter McDermid

girls, who seem to be increasingly vulnerable to slimming diseases," said Bill Lennon, ASA spokesman. "These rules are an attempt to protect them."

However, the fashion industry is reluctant to take responsibility. Jonathan Phang, Ms Kidd's agent, said models should not be criticised for their figures.

"Models have always been thin, and Jodie is naturally a very thin girl," he said. "She does eat a lot. She loves bacon sandwiches, McDonald's, Mars Bars, spaghetti. She eats like any normal teenager."

Lord Snowdon, who spent six months in the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Liverpool when he was 16, believes the confusion may have arisen from an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* in which he said that he recently

Salvation Army nets 'profit' on £5.7m sting

STEVE BOGGAN

Lawyers acting for the Salvation Army have recovered almost \$5m (£2m) more than the \$8.8m (£5.7m) lost in a bogus investment racket involving connexions with Mafia links.

Thirty-two months after the embarrassing announcement that it had been hoodwinked, the army said yesterday that it had recovered \$13.7m (£8.7m) — a balance that includes interest and the cost of the international hunt for the funds.

Paul Rader, General of the Salvation Army, said the recovery had answered the prayers of its members and would allow residential projects to go ahead in Plymouth, Belfast, Glasgow, London and Southport. "We hope this will go a long way to restoring the public's faith in the Salvation Army," he said. "We pursued the money with discipline, resolution and a great deal of tenacity."

The recovery was the result

of an astonishing international paper chase by lawyers who tracked down the money, and the crooks who stole it, across 13 countries including the US, Panama, Uruguay, Switzerland, Canada, Holland and Denmark.

The man leading the operation, Richard Clark, of Slaughter & May, said the final figure represents cash banked, rather than assets identified. There are further assets in the US over which the army has a claim.

The charity lost the money after being persuaded to invest in banking instruments known as standby letters of credit. Stuart Ford, a Birmingham builder, and Camil Naguib, a Canadian Egyptian investment adviser, convinced Colonel Grenville Burn, the Salvation Army's fund-raiser, that vast sums of money could be earned by trading in such letters of credit.

Against the advice of lay experts, Col Burn and a number of his superiors handed over \$10m (£6.5m) to Ford and

Naguib in May 1992. They transferred \$8.8m (£5.7m) of this into a bank account in Luxembourg and then on through two other banks, each time weakening the charity's control over the money.

More than \$3m (£1.9m) was channelled back to Britain, where it was used by Ford to repay personal debts and provide questionable loans for an airport project and a hotel in Scotland.

The rest, \$4.35m (£2.8m), was spent on a standby letter of credit being sold by Harold Glantz, a New York businessman who has been investigated several times in America over his links with the New York Mafia. Glantz used the money to buy a beach house in Malibu and two other properties in Santa Monica and Hollywood.

In interviews with the *Independent*, Ford and Naguib denied wrongdoing, insisting they were conned out of the money by Glantz and a Dutch associate, Guido Haak. The letter of

credit never materialised. Mr Clark and his colleagues traced the money through numerous banks and engaged 43 firms of lawyers worldwide to freeze and recover assets. In Britain alone, orders were made by more than 20 judges.

"The extra money recovered involves our claims for interest and the cost of recovery," he said. "We have been able to put the charity back in the position it would have been in had this money not been stolen."

A police investigation concentrating on Ford and Naguib is with the Crown Prosecution Service. Glantz is being held in New York pending extradition to Holland, where Guido Haak, his associate, was jailed last year for embezzlement.

Col Burn has been removed from his job, and the Salvation Army has since initiated controls that should prevent a recurrence. The Charity Commission said it was satisfied with the new arrangements.

'Fit as a fiddle' Snowdon dismisses polio reports

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Lord Snowdon, a teenage victim of polio, yesterday declared himself as "fit as a fiddle and working flat out" as he dismissed reports that he feared a return of the disease which left him with a withered left leg one inch shorter than the other.

The 65-year-old former husband of Princess Margaret said claims that he was suffering from the so-called post-polio syndrome were inaccurate. "I hate talking about polio. It's all rather boring, although I am very sorry for other people who do suffer," he said yesterday.

Lord Snowdon, who spent six months in the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Liverpool when he was 16, believes the confusion may have arisen from an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* in which he said that he recently

read about the experiences of Sir Julian Critchley, the 64-year-old Tory MP for Aldershot, who has experienced increasing pain and disability since 1991, after suffering polio as a child.

Medical opinion is divided on the existence of post-polio syndrome or the late effects of polio, as it is known in the UK. It first attracted attention about 15 years ago in the United States when a number of former childhood sufferers started coming forward with a range of symptoms, particularly fatigue and muscle pain, and aggravation of their existing polio injuries.

Research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* has suggested that fragments of the polio virus can be isolated from cerebro-spinal fluid in former victims, but British data, soon to be published, contradicts this view. Dr Adrian Williams, a lead-



Lord Snowdon: 'Very sorry for people who do suffer'

ing authority on polio at St Thomas's Hospital, London, where more than 500 "old polio" sufferers have been followed up, said that the new or aggravated symptoms developing 40 years or so after the ini-

tial illness could be due to a new neurological disease, or excess wear and tear on joints and muscles used in preference to a weakened limb. "In only a handful of cases have we been unable to explain the symptoms."

According to the British Polio Fellowship, there are more than 30,000 people in the UK still suffering some after-effects of polio, including people still treated in "iron lungs".

There are only two or three new cases a year; the infection may be contracted abroad, or follow vaccination. There have been cases in which unvaccinated fathers have contracted the disease after changing nappies of newly vaccinated babies.

A number of well-known people have had the disease, including Arthur C Clarke, Kerry Packer, the pop singer Ian Dury, and Peter Freestone, former editor of the *Guardian*.

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What young women think about the shapes that they see



Melissa Chigioti, 17: "I think this is really demeaning to women. Not only does it portray them really negatively, it sets bad role models for 12- and 13-year-olds who think this is how they should look if they want to get anywhere in life. I showed it to my mum, and she thought it was horrible too. I come from a family where I'm not skinny. My sister is very influenced. She's 23 and she goes through all the magazines. I'm happy with myself, and maybe she's not."



Sarah Home, 17: "Jodie Kidd looks ill. Her elbows are sticking out, you can see her bones. It's not a good image. I'm quite big, and sometimes I worry about it because quite a lot of my friends are thin. But I would not want to be influenced. I prefer models like Nicky Taylor who look the right weight for their height. People tell me I'm a slightly smaller version of Dawn French. She's my role model."



Holly Dawson, 18: "To tell you the truth, I'm very thin myself. I've got a 22-inch waist, that's an inch smaller than Kate Moss, and although I don't think there's anything good about it, I can't criticise. I eat like a pig, and I think it's your metabolism. Maybe these models are just naturally like that. If supermodels want to look like that it's up to them. Although I don't think it should be projected as an ideal, it's not their fault if it is."



Leanne Cowling, 22: "It's horrible. They're supposed to be the elite of the elite, and although I think it's awful, they do influence me. If I see a picture of a model and I like what she's wearing, I feel I have to be that thin to wear it. I stopped eating a couple of years ago, because I was trying to compete. You start to lose weight to keep up. I'm always worried that what I'm wearing makes me look fat. Sometimes I won't go out because of it. I'll get a video and a box of chocolates instead. It's a never-ending story."

REBECCA FOWLER interviewed performing arts students from North Herts College, Hitchin.

news

Millennium awards: New home for modern art collection and ambitious canal restoration are biggest winners

Mecca for modern art wins £50m grant



Bricks and water: An installation by David Mach at the Tate Gallery (left) which provoked a storm of controversy, and the Rochdale Canal at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, which will get £11m

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Reporter

In its first truly landmark award, the Millennium Commission yesterday awarded the Tate Gallery £50m to create Britain's first national museum of modern art.

It will allow the Tate to create a collection comparable in grandeur to the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum, both in New York, and the Musée National d'Art Moderne in the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

The scheme, to cost a total of £106m, has grown out of the gallery's increasing inability to show its major works.

Since 1950 its 20th century art collection has more than doubled in size - it now numbers 4,500 paintings and sculptures - but its main building at Millbank has only increased in area by one-fifth. At present, less than 15 per cent of the modern collection can be displayed.

Pressure on the gallery has been increased by the soaring attendance figures, which have more than doubled during the past decade to 2.5 million this

year. Last year, for the first time in the gallery's history, visitors were refused entry because of overcrowding.

The aim of the new Tate, to be situated in the old Bankside power station on the south bank of the Thames, is to take up the story of art from where the National Gallery collection

finishes - at the end of the 19th century. While the Tate at Millbank will continue to show British art from the Renaissance to the present day, the Bankside Tate will present 20th century art in a more international context.

The predicted 3 million visitors a year will be able to enjoy work by artists including Picasso, Dalí, Rodin, Giacometti, Freud and Andy Warhol in addition to sculpture courts, gardens, and an urban park.

But Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate, was quick to emphasise that the new gallery would not just benefit the capital, saying that 40 per cent of

British visitors were expected to come from outside London.

He also stressed that the scheme was estimated to create 650 jobs in the local Southwark area, which suffers from 25 per cent unemployment.

Six other Millennium grants were also announced yesterday. The Rochdale Canal Trust won

up to £11m to restore 32 miles of the Rochdale Canal from Manchester to Halifax, while the Woodland Trust was given up to £6.5m to help create 200 community woodlands in England and Wales.

The Black Country will also develop 1,000 hectares of woodland sites in urban areas of the West Midlands following a grant of £4.2m to the Black Country Environmental Partnership, while Orkney Islands Council won up to £3.7m to provide a community centre. A grant of up to £7.4m went to National Museums of Scotland to present Scottish cultural resources on CD-Rom. The final grant was for £588,000 to the Thames Salmon Trust to boost salmon stocks in the Thames.

A new development in Millennium Commission policy also emerged last night. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, announced grants would in future also go to individuals "to develop their potential" in a way that offered community benefit.

Church, Scout and Guide groups and educational trusts will be consulted on how such grants should be applied, but possibilities include youth, community and "mentoring" schemes.

A permanent reserve fund of up to £100m will be set up to provide income to fund the awards to individuals after the commission itself is wound up at the end of 2000.

tracted vandalism. His *Neon Rice Field*, consisting of seven tons of rice, was broken when a young woman threw flowers into it as it went on display at the Tate in November that year.

Other objectors pointed out that the work used enough rice to feed an African village for a month. But Dr Virginia Bottomley, exhibition curator, promised that the rice would be re-milled and sold after the winner was announced. The winner turned out to be Rachel Whiteread - whose cast of a derelict house was labelled a "disaster in plaster" and later demolished by Tower Hamlets Council.

Another work of art by Lao-born Vong Phaophanit, one of the four artists shortlisted for the 1993 Turner Prize, also attracted vandalism. His *Neon*

This became the subject of an unexpected artistic contribution when Mark Bridger, a part-time teacher, emptied black ink into the case while it was on display at the Serpentine Gallery in London. He was found guilty of criminal damage but given a conditional discharge in August last year after telling magistrates: "I understood the sculptor was intending to focus on mortality. I was in a *carpe diem* frame of mind."

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Hotline
exposes
campus
racism

IAN MACKINNON

The first comprehensive study of racism on Britain's college campuses has exposed the alarming rise of Islamic extremist groups which have targeted Jewish activists with death threats.

The activities of one group in particular - Hizb ut-Tahrir, or the Islamic Liberation Party - was said to be the cause of the majority of calls to a hotline set up for students who believed themselves to be the victims of racist behaviour.

Releasing the results of a survey of the first year of the Campus Watch hotline, the National Union of Students yesterday accused the police and the Home Office of refusing to take seriously threats by Hizb ut-Tahrir and other groups.

The Islamic group, which has been banned from the University of Birmingham, claimed it was the victim of a witch-hunt on British campuses, which it said had been seized by those who wished to stifle debate.

The NUS also said expressed concern at the way extremist groups, particularly from the far right, have been using the virtually uncensored Internet to spread their propaganda and calls for racist action.

Displaying a selection of material from the Internet, Jim Murphy, the NUS president, challenged the Department for Education and the Home Office to find a way of preventing the spread of the material.

He urged both departments "to develop a series of initiatives to prevent the extreme right using the Internet to distribute their propaganda and discrimination", and added that but for a few exceptional cases the Home Office had been reluctant or unwilling to act on cases which had been reported to it from the calls to the hotline.

The most significant source of fear and anger was caused by the distribution of offensive material, but many students also complained that they had received verbal or written warnings - including death threats.

Jeremy Newmark, of the Union of Jewish Students, said the research would now provide firm base from which to combat racism.

Works the critics knew they didn't like

Britain is to have its first national museum of modern art, and the art world is rejoicing, writes Marianne Macdonald. But no one knows better than Nicholas Serota, the Tate's powerful director, that detractors will be waiting in the wings.

There is little that attracts such virulent criticism as the purchase of cutting-edge modern artworks by national galleries - funded by the taxpayer - and the Tate has been the main target. But that was just for the main gallery at Millbank, whose huge holdings include vast numbers of accepted masters - Constable, Gainsbor-

ough, Picasso, Henry Moore. Now the Tate has won half the £106m funding for its Gallery of Modern Art at the former Bankside power station, de-commissioned in 1981, it is likely to face more violent controversy over its purchases.

The most notorious instance of public loathing for a Tate acquisition was the "pile of bricks", which provoked both hilarity and controversy when it was bought for £6,000 in 1972. Otherwise known as *Equivalent VIII* by Carl Andre, the bricks became a symbol of all that critics see as pointless and ludicrous in radical modern art.

Later, the Turner Prize, run by the Tate, became the focus of opprobrium for the school of art lovers who may not know much about art, but know what they like.

This year, the shortlist of four artists includes Mark Wallinger, 36, who had bought a racehorse the previous year and designated it art by the simple expedient of naming it *A Real Work of Art*. Also on the list is Damien Hirst, the artist who attracted public attention largely through his so-called dead sheep. *Away From The Flock*, to give it its official title, consisted of a lamb suspended in

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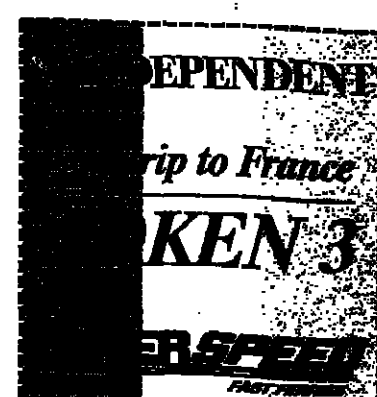
Boulogne abounds with dozens of fine food and wine outlets, including the finest cheesemongers outside Paris. A must, however, is The Grape Shop. This excellent wine merchant, voted best Cross-Channel Outlet 1995, is offering Independent readers a free bottle of House Champagne when they spend £40 or more.

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سكنا من الامم

Blaze on ferry 'exposed failings in safety drill'

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

A fire on a cross-Channel ferry which led to its evacuation exposed a catalogue of failings in safety procedures, according to the accident inquiry.

It also reveals that the much-criticised removal of search and rescue helicopters from a nearby RAF station to one in Suffolk caused a 20-minute delay in firefighters reaching the ship which could have had serious consequences had the fire been more serious.

The *Sally Line* blaze, which occurred on 25 August 1994, when it was 10 kilometres out of Ramsgate en route to Dunkirk, was caused by fuel oil leaking on to a hot exhaust pipe. While it was confined to the engine room, it continued to burn for three hours because of the failure of the auxiliary generators and consequently of emergency fire pumps. More than 100 people, mainly crew, were evacuated from the ship and two people — one them a firefighter — suffered minor injuries. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch's report published yesterday reveals a number of concerns. It found that halon gas, used to smother but first quickly in emergencies, was not released until half an hour after the start of the fire and then only after some of the gas, which can only be used after crew have been given breathing equipment, had leaked out.

The general alarm system was inadequate in that it needed a permanent attendant to operate it and the public address system failed because it was not linked to the emergency generators. Emergency lighting in the ship's accommodation "was not fully effective due to defective bulbs", the report said.

The fire was put out with the help of Kent Fire Brigade, but the incident also highlighted a number of shortcomings with its procedures and problems caused by the removal of the emergency helicopters from RAF Manston, near the Channel. The helicopters now have

to fly from RAF Wattisham in Suffolk and the report says that the fire teams were ready at Manston waiting to be picked up at 5.00am. However, the Sea King helicopter from Wattisham only left a 5.00am and arrived at Manston 21 minutes later. It took off with the firefighters aboard at 5.29am, which means that the removal of helicopters from Manston, two years ago as a result of spending cutbacks, caused a delay of about 20 minutes.

The report says the fire brigade failed to "alert the Coastguard that it was ready and waiting at the site and this breakdown in communication could have been serious had the situation on the ship deteriorated."

A spokesman for Sally Line said it had "taken action to deal with all the matters raised by the report". Indeed, the report says Sally Line, which runs two cross-Channel ships, has made more than a dozen changes in procedures and equipment since the incident.

All ears at Harvard for extra-terrestrials

TOM WILKIE
Science Editor

If ET should phone home today, scientists at Harvard University in the United States have a billion electronic ears ready to listen in to his conversation.

At the Oak Ridge Observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts, the Planetary Society of the USA, a group supported by among others, Steven Spielberg, the creator of the fictional film *ET*, yesterday inaugurated the second phase of its search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

Paul Horowitz, from Harvard University's Physics Department, has hooked up a super-sensitive detector to the Observatory's 26m (84ft) radio-telescope.

Called Project BETA, for Billion-channel Extra Terrestrial Assay, it divides the radio signals coming into the telescope into a billion channels and scans each one for any distinctive pattern which might indicate signals coming from life forms beyond our own solar system. It is not so much a search, more of an eavesdrop, for extra-terrestrial life.



ET: If he calls us, the Oak Ridge team will be listening

Dr Horowitz said yesterday that BETA could reach "out to the nearest 1,000 stars or, depending on the advancement of the civilisation, it could survey to the rest of the galaxy".

Steven Spielberg has not contributed directly to BETA, which has been funded by the ordinary members of the Planetary Society, according to Dr Horowitz, but Spielberg did give financial support to its predecessor, META, and contributed \$100,000 to the society shortly after *ET* was released.

Dr Jacqueline Mitton of the Royal Astronomical Society in Britain said: "On a statistical basis, it's reasonable to assume that somewhere, there will be stars with planets circling them capable of supporting life. Many astronomers would presume there is likely to be life rather than us on Earth being unique."

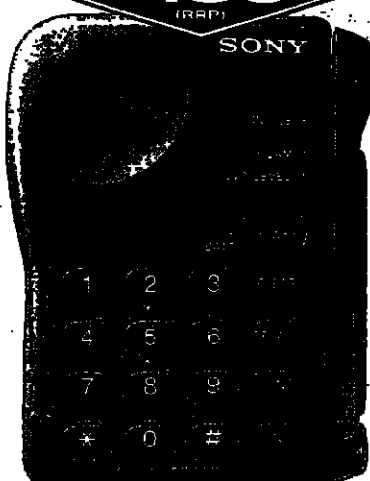
Dr Mitton said that to spend a little money on the search for life beyond our solar system "seems to be a respectable scientific thing to do". However, the schemes for detecting life were speculative, she thought.

In addition to listening to cosmic whispers with a radio-telescope, some researchers believed that it might be possible to look for planets around other stars and put the faint radiation coming from them through a spectroscope to see if there was the "chemical signature of a life-supporting environment."

If the search succeeded, Dr Mitton pointed out, and if proof was found of other intelligence beyond the stars, "it would be one of the biggest scientific discoveries of all time."

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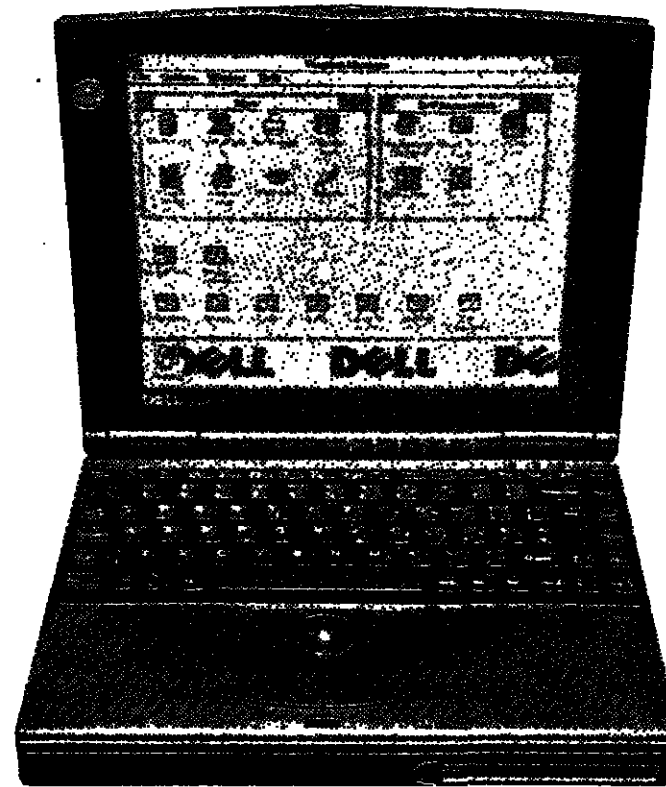
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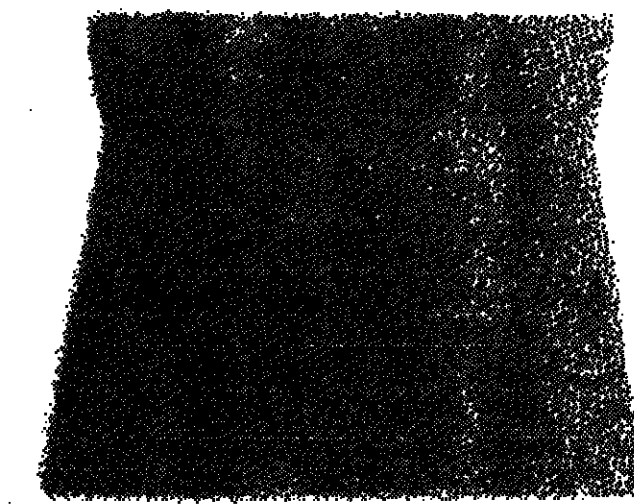


Lunch date: A guest waits to enter the Women of the Year Lunch at the Savoy hotel in central London. About 500 women gathered for yesterday's celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the event and proceeds raised will go to the Greater London Fund for the Blind. Photograph: Edward Sykes

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politics

Rifkind in talks with ex-rebels on Europe

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has agreed to meet the eight Euro-rebels who lost the last year amid growing pressure from the Tory right for a pledge to hold a referendum on a single currency to beat the electoral threat posed by the Referendum Party, headed by multi-millionaire Sir James Goldsmith.

In what was greeted last night by the hardest-line Euro-sceptics themselves as a significant ministerial shift, Mr Rifkind has become the first senior member of the Cabinet to agree to direct talks with the eight who are still meeting regularly as a group despite having regained the whip.

The "whippers" group is due to meet later this week to finalise their line with the Foreign Secretary at their meeting next month. But one prominent member, Sir Teddy Taylor, said yesterday they were likely to renew pressure for a referendum pledge as the best way to achieve Government consensus over Europe in the run-up to the general election.

Earlier this month Mr Rifkind met a group of pro-Euro-peans angered by the strongly Euro-phobic tone of the Blackpool conference speech of Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence. The Foreign Secretary reportedly reassured the MPs that lessons would be learnt from the adverse reaction at home and abroad to the language used by Mr Portillo.

Sir Teddy Taylor said yesterday that the former whipless rebels wanted to be "constructive and flexible" in response to what they see as a shift to a more Euro-sceptic approach by Mr Rifkind and John Major. He strongly welcomed the decision by Mr Rifkind to offer a date. He said a majority of the

former rebels were in favour of a commitment to a referendum before any move by Britain to agree fixed exchange rates with her European partners.

Disclosure that a date had been arranged for the meeting between Mr Rifkind and the former rebels comes after other prominent Euro-sceptics, including Mr Major's July leadership challenger John Redwood, have been arguing that a referendum pledge on a single currency is needed. While most – though by no means all – Euro-sceptics have long been pressing for the Prime Minister to make a clear commitment to a referendum on any British move to join a single currency, they believe the electoral plans of Sir James's Referendum Party is giving them new leverage to argue their case.

Sir Teddy also said yesterday that the need for such a pledge had been underlined by Sir James's election plans – which Tory strategists fear could affect the party's chances in marginal seats. Sir Teddy made it clear he saw no reason why such a pledge should not win the eventual support of Cabinet pro-Europeans like Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

The latest signs of pressure for a referendum pledge came as it was emphasised in Whitehall that Mr Major was still sticking by his 1 March formula under which he had neither ruled in nor out the possibility of joining a single currency.

Despite persistent attempts by senior right-wing ministers to persuade the Prime Minister to make a manifesto pledge to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament, Mr Major has still not resolved to do so. Both Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, are said to be still resistant to the idea, arguing that it would unravel the carefully constructed consensus on the issue.

Secret order: Research shows nine Conservative peers and four sitting MPs hold senior posts



Positions of Influence: Senior Masons (above left, from top) Lord Belstead, former leader of the Lords; Ian Bruce, a sitting MP and one of the most prominent Tory Masons; and from industry, Sir John Banham, former director-general of the CBI. Above, celebrations on the 275th anniversary of British Freemasonry in 1992

Tory politicians at the heart of Freemasonry

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Nine MPs and former MPs hold posts in the highest ranks of the Freemasons – and with one exception they are Conservative.

A study by Labour Research into the 1995 Masonic Year Book – the *Who's Who* of Freemasonry – also shows that nine Tory peers occupy senior posts in the secretive order.

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee is due to break new ground by holding the first parliamentary inquiry

into the extent of Masonic influence on the police and judiciary early next year.

The study also provides food for thought for Lord Nolan and his committee on standards in public life, which has also indicated a willingness to look into the mysterious craft.

As a law lord, Lord Nolan may find himself investigating his colleagues: 32 judges or retired judges are listed in the *Masonic Year Book*.

According to the book, the House of Lords has more leading Masons than the Commons. They start with the most

powerful of all, the Duke of Kent who, as is well-known, is grand master of the United Grand Lodge of England, the order's governing body in this country.

The number two Mason is Lord Farnham, an Irish peer. Earlier this year, the Irish peers lost their long campaign to be allowed to take their places in the Lords so he does not count among the 25 top Masons in the upper house.

Of those 25, nine are Tories, 11 are crossbenchers and four do not declare any party allegiance. One, the Duke of Kent,

is above party politics as a member of the Royal Family. The Tory peers include: Lord Belstead, a former leader of the House of Lords; Lord Lane of Horsell, a former chair of the National Union of Conservative Associations; and the Earl of Elgin & Kincardine. Lord Belstead was president of the House of Lords in 1994/95, while the Earl of Elgin & Kincardine is an ex-grand master for Scotland.

Four sitting Conservative MPs appear in the handbook: Tony Baldry, a junior minister;

Sir Gerard Vaughan; Sir Peter Emery and Ian Bruce. Of these, Mr Bruce, who sits on a number of United Grand Lodge committees, appears to be the most prominent.

Former MPs, all Tories, in the book are: Sir Neil Thorne, who loaned his Westminster home for the Prime Minister's leadership campaign headquarters in the summer; Sir Ian Percival, a former solicitor-general; Sir David Trippier; Sir John Wells and Sir Edwin Leather. One Conservative former MEP, Sir Peter Vaneck, is also listed.

Only one Labour politician is

in the book: Niall Macdermot, who retired as Derby North's MP in 1970.

As well as Tories and judges, businessmen also occupy senior posts "on the square". They include Sir John Banham, former director-general of the CBI and a director of National Westminster Bank and National Power.

Sir Gerrard Peat, a partner in KPMG Peat Marwick, the leading accountancy firm, is a top mason. He is also a past auditor to the Queen's Privy Purse and treasurer of the Association of Conservative Clubs.

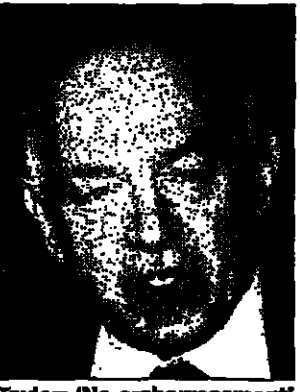
Senior Tory urges MPs to support Nolan over disclosure of earnings

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Political Correspondent

A prominent Tory yesterday urged colleagues to back the Nolan recommendations on disclosing MPs' outside earnings – with the proviso that the new regime should not begin until the start of the next Parliament.

As Sir Teddy Taylor, a prominent rebel against the Government's European policy, backed full disclosure as government sources revealed that MPs would be given a free vote in next Monday's debate on the report being drawn up by a select committee under the chairmanship of Tony Newton, Leader of the House.

A free vote would significantly raise the chances of the House backing Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life recommendation for full disclosure of annual income from outside interests, or disclosure within monetary bands – even if the select committee's report ends up, as was still being suggested yesterday, listing options from full disclosure to no disclosure rather than



Taylor: 'No embarrassment'

reaching a unanimous position.

Sir Teddy, MP for Southend East, said yesterday: "I have serious doubts about whether Nolan should have happened in the first place, but now it has we have got to go through with it and resolve it. We must not have the embarrassment of being seen to be against it."

Sir Teddy added that the new regime must also cover "directorships" because there were signs that lobbying firms were going to evade the Nolan-recommended ban on multi-client

consultancies by arranging to have MPs made directors of companies.

But he said the new rules should be timed to come into effect only after the latest time that the next general election could take place. It would be unfair to change MPs' terms and conditions at a time when they had no choice over whether to accept them.

The Conservative-dominated select committee will tonight reconvene to discuss a draft report drawn up by Mr Newton. A further meeting is scheduled for tomorrow if deadlock continues, but Mr Newton was said last night to be making intensive efforts to bring about a united front in the final version.

There were signs of panic in government ranks last week with the suggestion that 100 Conservative MPs would leave Parliament at the next election in protest at the changes.

That figure is thought by a number of MPs to be an exaggeration of the likely exodus, while a number of Tories are expected to take a similar view to Sir Teddy.

Christmas bonus for Ulster peace process

The Commons last night gave speedy approval to legislation to ensure early release of convicted terrorists from Northern Ireland jails.

Confidence in the ceasefire means 90 IRA and loyalist prisoners will spend Christmas at home instead of behind bars.

But Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, insisted that his Northern Ireland (Remission of Sentences) Bill did not amount to an amnesty. "It makes no concession to terrorism at all. It will enable the penal system of Northern Ireland to make a positive, but proportionate and prudent response to the continuance of the ceasefire."

The Bill will bring Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the country so that prisoners will become eligible for release after serving half their sentence. It will end a more stringent two-thirds minimum introduced in 1989 in response to a terrorist

campaign which included the Enniskillen bombing and a wave of sectarian murders.

Sir Patrick said the Government should not "seem reluctant to respond in a positive manner" to the changes brought about by the ceasefire.

In the past year only two people had lost their lives – one of them after being injured 22 years ago. Besides the 90 prisoners to be released before Christmas, 98 will be released on licence in 1996 who would not otherwise have been due out until 1997 or 1998. By the end of the decade, about 340 prisoners out of the 471 to whom the Bill applies will have been released. But Sir Patrick added: "Many of those who have been sentenced for the most heinous offences would still remain in prison until at least the end of the first decade in the next century."

Commons gives approval to Remission of Sentences Bill

Nor is liberty unconditional for those who are released. They will be liable for recall if at any point up to the two-thirds point in their sentence, the Secretary of State judges they have become a risk to the safe-



Stephen Goodwin

ty of others or are likely to commit further offences. The condition is in line with the rest of the UK, but it also seen both as prop to the ceasefire and a safeguard should terrorism return. Emphasising the bipartisan

approach, Tony Worthington, for Labour, said peace and the search for a constitutional settlement were far too important to be undermined by party political point-scoring. Going for a small one, though, he added that Labour had been urging such a Bill since June.

He noted the importance attached by both nationalists and loyalists to the prisoners issue and praised the "influential role" of former inmates in bringing about the ceasefire.

A smooth passage was assured when Andrew Hunter, the chairman of the Conservative Northern Ireland backbench committee, gave his support for the Bill and when the Ulster Unionists said they would not be opposing it.

Mr Hunter said that despite a summer which had echoed to the sound of marching feet and the fact that the IRA was still

recruiting, training, raising funds and seeking to extend its influence by intimidation and violence, "the ceasefires thankfully hold and the most horrific manifestations of terrorism are on hold". It was therefore right to look again at some of the emergency legislation.

Ulster Unionist John Taylor nonetheless had some reservations. "I do not understand the undue haste in presenting this Bill so promptly without proper consultation with Members of this House," he said.

The Strangford MP also claimed there appeared to be some difference in policy between Sir Patrick and Michael Howard: "At a time when the Home Secretary is going for a hard-line attitude towards sentencing of criminals, there is, in Northern Ireland today, a more liberal regime as far as political prisoners are concerned."

Civil Service chief refuses to reveal extent of 'leaking'

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, refused to say yesterday how many civil servants had been caught and sacked for leaking secret papers, as the Government published new rules for the ethical conduct of civil servants and ministers.

He said he could not deny the perception that the Civil Service was "leaky", but that this was unfair, as leaks represented only a "very, very tiny fraction of the confidential papers that are circulating in government at any one time".

He said detecting leakers was difficult and the penalty was almost always dismissal, but he would not give details of how many cases had reached this point.

Sir Robin was speaking at the

publication of a code which says civil servants "should not seek to frustrate or influence the policies, decisions or actions of government" by unauthorised disclosure of information.

The code, published by the Civil Service Minister, Roger Freeman, also enacts some of the Nolan committee recommendations giving civil servants the right for the first time to appeal to an independent arbiter if faced with a "fundamental issue of confidence".

But the code asserts that, while they are servants of the Crown, in effect "civil servants owe their loyalty to the duly constituted government". This was rejected by the jury in the Clive Ponting case in 1985, which decided that Mr Ponting, a Ministry of Defence official who believed the Government was misleading Parliament about

the sinking of the *Belgrano*, could appeal to the overriding public interest.

The new code was immediately attacked by the First Division Association of top civil servants for not going far enough, because it fails to clarify the division of responsibility between ministers and their officials, especially in executive agencies such as the Prison Service.

The FDA, which represents Derek Lewis, the sacked head of the Prison Service, wants civil servants to be able to refuse to answer questions asked by MPs, and to say "that is a matter for the minister". At present, said an FDA spokesman, "civil servants give evidence to select committees under instruction from ministers, but ministers then say their answers are nothing to do with them".



Donald Dewar: Staking claim to the centre ground

Dewar accuses Major of shift to right on Europe

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour yesterday claimed John Major had lurches to the right over Europe by privately making it clear he would adopt a commitment not to join a single European currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament.

Staking Labour's claim to the centre ground of politics, Donald Dewar, the Labour chief whip, said the "bastard tendency" in the Tory party was in the ascendancy. "Ministers will play a dangerous game on immigration, Europe and the economy as the election approaches," Mr Dewar said.

"The Prime Minister was once prepared to distance himself from the Euro-sceptics. Now they set the agenda for government," he said. Mr Major was sacrificing influence in Europe to placate what Nicholas Budgen, the Tory MP, had called "the stormtroopers of the new orthodoxy".

Mr Dewar added: "Are Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke going to roll over?" Mr Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, accused Labour of "running scared of the positive agenda" put forward by the Conservatives at their annual party conference. But he ducked the question of whether

he would sign up to a manifesto commitment stopping Britain joining a single European currency until 2002 at the earliest.

The speculation has been fuelled by the apparent shift of pro-European Cabinet ministers, including Stephen Dorrell, in favour of such a commitment.

Mr Heseltine's response also showed a confusion in the Tory ranks over whether to portray Labour as having shifted to the right, or locked in "Old Labour" policies. He said: "Labour's very choice of attack has shown that the Conservative Party agenda dominates their thinking and that they remain a left-wing party."

Churches attack plan to change homeless rules

GLENDIA COOPER

Plans to reform homelessness legislation will be "unworkable, unjustifiable and damaging to family life", a report sponsored by more than 500 churches and charities said yesterday.

The report *People Need Homes* warned that government proposals to remove the duty of town halls to provide

permanent homes for the homeless will lead to increased poverty, homelessness and benefit dependency. And it predicts that "many thousands" of homeless families will be plunged into greater misery.

The survey was carried out by the Churches National Housing Coalition – an umbrella group of more than 500 churches, charities and housing organi-

sations. It is based on interviews with more than 250 homeless people, and information from 110 hostels drawn together by church groups in 18 towns and cities across Britain.

More than 150,000 people were accepted as homeless last year – a figure which excludes most homeless people who are single or childless. The equivalent of a town the size of

Brighton – about 50,000 households – were living in temporary accommodation at the end of 1994. Just under one-third of those questioned had slept rough at some point in the last six months. Less than half had slept in only one place and the rest had slept in up to eight types of accommodation.

For the majority of the respondents, just over 85 per

cent, their main source of income was state benefits.

The churches say that if current homelessness legislation – which removes homeless people's priority rights to permanent accommodation – goes through, the situation for homeless people will become much worse, with families staying longer in temporary accommodation.

Police for kill pups

DAILY

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international

Quebec referendum: A close result is predicted as the rest of the country asks Pourquoi rather than Oui or Non

Canada puzzled by the lure of secession

DAVID USBORNE
Montreal

The 5 million Quebecers who were eligible to vote poured into polling stations yesterday to determine the fate of their province and all of Canada. The ballot paper offered two simple options: "Oui" or "Non" to attempting at last to forge a country under their own flag and their own government.

This morning they and Canadians everywhere will have the answer. Many last night were predicting a close vote. If that is what happens, little will be clarified. A No result, if it is slim, will not resolve the issue of Quebec's status within Canada. A narrow Yes will open months of bickering over how exactly Quebec should be allowed to break away and when.

All the while, the rest of Canada and much of the world are asking Quebecers a different question: "Pourquoi?" Why are you so agonised about being a part of the country that three years ago was identified by the United Nations as being the most "liveable" on the planet? What drives so many of you to want to take the gamble of going it alone?

Figuring that puzzle was easier 15 years ago, when Quebec held its first referendum on separation, with the late René Lévesque leading the secessionists. Quebecers had reason to complain that French-speakers were still widely considered



Decision day: Quebec's Prime Minister Jacques Parizeau leaving the polling station

Photograph: Peter Jones/Reuters

second-class citizens in Canada and to worry that their culture and language were threatened by anglophone domination.

Few Quebecers argue the same today, however. A survey in the francophone weekly magazine *L'Actualité* earlier this month found that only 4 per cent of voters in the province believed that francophone society was under siege and only a slightly higher number thought

the French language might disappear from Canada.

Among those who were planning to vote Yes to separation, 36 per cent cited the need for Quebec to wrest from Ottawa the political power to determine its own economic and political fate, while 28 per cent expressed a weariness with constitutional wrangles and a feeling that breaking away was the only remaining viable solution.

Whether or not they believe it is threatened with assimilation, most Quebecers are clear that they live in a culture that is different from the rest of Canada's. Seeing that does not need scientific surveys. It is more than language that sets Quebec apart (80 per cent of Quebecers are primarily francophone).

Visiting Quebec from outside is like stepping into provincial

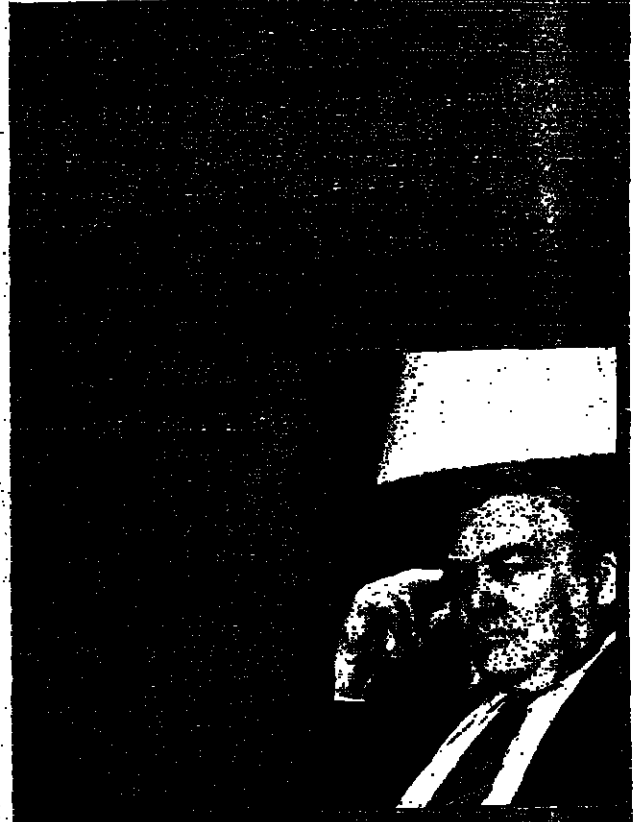
France 20 years ago. There is a grittiness you will not find elsewhere in North America. People smoke more. There are bistros and chip shops that offer hot dogs, *frites* and "petits liqueurs".

Among a small knot of people who stopped on a pavement in Montreal to witness an outside broadcast by a national radio station, Stéphane Lahoud, 24, said it was neither

economic issues nor fear of cultural erosion that was driving him to vote yes. For him, Quebec is just different from anywhere else in Canada and that is all. It should therefore be a sovereign land. And the main difference, he contended, is one of political and social values. "The anglophones are just more to the right than we are. We have a system where if someone is sick and needs to go to the hospital, we help them. In the West, you get treatment if you can pay for it. If you can't, too bad."

The last 15 years, during which there have been three aborted attempts to amend the Canadian constitution in Quebec's favour, have also left many in Quebec resentful and bitter. Jean Hoffman, 34, an international lawyer, remembers that in 1980, the then Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, promised to reward a No vote in Quebec - which he won - with early constitutional reforms. It did not happen. Now, Jean Chrétien, Canada's present leader, is making the same pledge. "I don't believe him," Mr Hoffman admits.

Still, Mr Hoffman admitted to being undecided. He had been moved, he said, by last week's demonstration by hundreds of thousands of Canadians in Montreal pleading for Quebec to stay in the federation. "I just hope that all those people who came will remind Mr Chrétien and make him keep his word."



Mother country shows reluctance to lend support

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

In the weeks running up to yesterday's referendum, French television news repeatedly included grainy black-and-white film of General de Gaulle's 1967 trip to Quebec and the ecstatic cheering that greeted his "Vive le Québec libre!" But the clips were never left to stand as propaganda for the independence campaign: they were carefully placed in their historical context, and the emotive words "Québec libre" scarcely crossed a French commentator's lips.

Despite the presence of a determined Gaullist at the Elysée

and the possibility of victory for the Quebec independence campaign, the mother country consistently showed a strange reluctance to lend support. As referendum day approached, French comment was far more likely to couple the word "libre" with "choice" than with Quebec.

France's official position was described by the foreign ministry in the traditional and convenient phrase as "neither indifference, nor interference". President Chirac said nothing on the subject while the campaign was in progress, except once, and this was not to a French audience, but in answer to a phone-in caller during his appearance on CNN in New

York last week, saying: "If Quebec votes 'yes', we shall recognise that fact."

He was widely interpreted, especially by supporters of independence, as meaning that France would immediately recognise an independent Quebec. But his words fell far short of a ringing endorsement, and some believe they were deliberately phrased to allow France a possible mediating role, should Quebec vote "yes".

Mr Chirac's phrasing contrasted sharply with the definite promise he gave to Quebec's Premier, Jacques Parizeau, during his visit to Paris in January. Then, as mayor of Paris and presidential candidate, Mr

Chirac pledged that France would be "the first country to recognise an independent Quebec". Since becoming president and taking on responsibility for foreign policy, he has been more cautious.

France has good relations with Canada, and Mr Chirac has clearly concluded that they should not be jeopardised needlessly. Such advice may well have been the result of an extended visit to Canada made in September by Philippe Séguin, chairman of the French National Assembly and close confidant of Mr Chirac.

Any enthusiasm for the Quebec cause in France has come from predictable quarters: lan-

guage and culture activists, the National Assembly's Paris-Quebec friendship group, and others. One of their concerns is that without independence for Quebec, French language and culture in Canada will not survive.

Some of the campaigners professed themselves disappointed by the lack of official support, especially after Mr Chirac declined to counter President Bill Clinton's call for Canada to remain united. Others, including some Quebecers resident in France, said they were shocked at the French public's lack of interest. A recent poll showed 56 per cent of those asked to be in favour of independence for Quebec, but

only 23 per cent said they knew about the referendum.

French press comment has been deliberately even-handed, on both right and left. The right-of-centre daily *Figaro*, for instance, yesterday published a front-page commentary by Alain Peyrefitte, the paper's chairman and De Gaulle's biographer, headed *Un choix libre*. "Quebec," Mr Peyrefitte said, "is free today. Free to cut the Gordian knot of its links with Canada. Free to choose to go on playing out its destiny inside the federation."

He concluded: "We should accompany the Quebecers on the road they choose - whichever it is to be."

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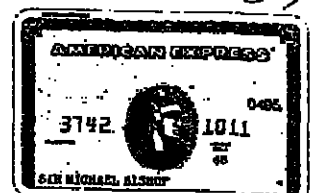


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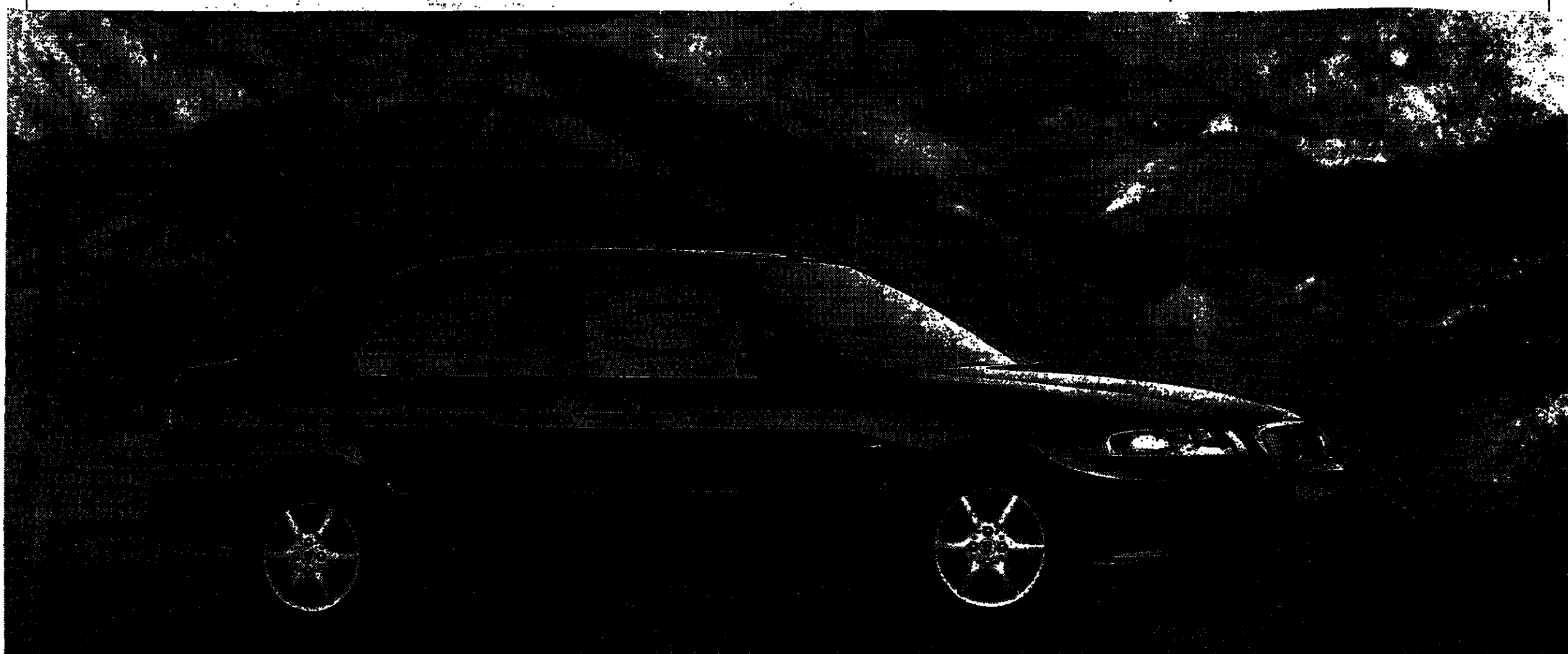
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international

Ban on Russian liberals fans fears over election

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The Russian electoral commission was yesterday struggling to defuse a scandal over its decision to bar the strongest liberal opposition party, Yabloko, from the coming parliamentary elections, owing to a red-tape technicality.

The decision to exclude the reformist party drew protests from the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who condemned it as "ill-considered and harmful", and from Communists who predicted it was the forerunner in a Kremlin-inspired scheme to cancel the December elections.

The deputy chairman of the commission, Alexander Ivanchenko, suggested it might backtrack, saying Yabloko's chances of registration were "not hopeless". It would reconsider the ban if ordered to by the Supreme Court.

Even if it changes its mind, this will not eradicate suspicion that the ban was a plot to destroy one of the most influen-

tial groups of liberal reformers. The commission, although nominally independent, is appointed by President Boris Yeltsin and is seen as a tool of the government. Grigory Yavlinsky, who is planning to run for the presidency next June, and is one of the country's more popular politicians.

The commission said it had rejected Yabloko's registration for the elections to the State Duma, or lower house, on 17 December because it had dropped six candidates from the party list without providing proof of their consent, a minor breach of election law.

The chief proponent of the theory that the ban is a conspiracy is Mr Yavlinsky himself, who accused Kremlin hawks of using Mr Yeltsin's illness to sabotage his presidential bid. "This is the beginning of the preparations for the presidential challenge," he said.

Others said if it was an act of skulduggery, it was ill-judged. With Russians in a nationalist mood - polls show they are lean-

ing strongly towards the Communist and nationalist parties - Mr Yavlinsky is not a particularly promising presidential candidate. Banning his party from the parliamentary elections is only likely to boost his popularity. "This has given him and his party something which most Russian politicians covet, the air of having been persecuted," said Dimitri Trenin, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Moscow.

A more plausible theory is that Yabloko, which means "apple", and is an acronym of its three founders' names, was the victim of petty bureaucracy, and of a clash between the commission's chairman, Nikolai Ryabov, and Mr Yavlinsky. Both men have a reputation for arrogance. Mr Ryabov has accused the Yabloko leader of being "high and mighty".

The Yabloko scandal is further adding to the nation's jitters, which began when Mr Yeltsin was taken to hospital on Thursday. He remains isolated from the outside world and is still not receiving visitors.



John Major and Jacques Chirac in London with their air force chiefs

Bosnia gets London and Paris on same side

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Diplomatic Editor
CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

John Major said yesterday that the British and French armed forces "are closer today than at any time in the last 50 years."

At the end of the Anglo-French summit last night the Prime Minister and President Jacques Chirac made it clear that Bosnia has provided a bitter lesson in the constraints of multilateral action and the limits of the transatlantic alliance.

They agreed that the shared experience in Bosnia was "highly relevant" to the development of credible European defence arrangements, reinforcing this with their public pledge to closer military and nuclear co-operation. Both countries have at times shared an intense irritation at US policy in the Balkans, a feeling only partly mitigated by the recent US peace initiative.

Earlier, at a ceremony to inaugurate the new Franco-British Euro Air Group planning cell at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, the two leaders showed their support for the much-criticised UN commanders in the field by decorating Generals Sir Michael Rose and Bertrand de Lapeyre. And they rejected suggestions at their joint press conference that British and French forces could have done more to prevent mass killings in Bosnia.

They are considering closer ties at army staff level, while conducting joint seminars to examine the lessons of Bosnia for future peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

Besides the air agreement other defence links are to be developed. The two navies are shortly to sign a "letter of intent" to facilitate greater co-operation at sea.

The high profile accorded to the inauguration of a planning cell with just 11 permanent staff, overseen by a French major-general and a British air commodore, underlined the determination of both governments to exploit the common interests of two ex-colonial powers in an often unsympathetic world. Speaking at High Wycombe, both leaders stressed the numerous military ties between Britain and France and the fact that British troops were serving under French control in Bosnia, and vice-versa.

Mr. Major said the leaders had two and a half hours of talks on Russia, the Middle East, Bosnia, Europe and a range of defence matters. "What we are beginning to see is an increasing move towards global partnership between our two countries."

"If our predecessors had hit upon this particular idea a few hundred years ago, the history of Europe would have been rather different," Mr. Major added.

The interests of Britain and France march together, sail together and fly together, both for the security of Britain and France and for the wider security of Europe.

President Chirac said Britain and France had the same strategic interests and must put a "credible European defence identity into practice, based on a strong transatlantic relationship." Since 1989 there had been an increased need, and increased opportunities, for intervention world-wide.

The need to coordinate both tactical and strategic air transport was one of the lessons of British and French involvement in the Gulf in 1990-1, in Bosnia and in Rwanda, and the new Air Group would help use the available air transport with maximum efficiency.

Hungary seeks British backing

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Budapest

Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Prime Minister, flies to London today for a two-day visit during which he hopes to enlist British support for his country's speedy accession to the European Union and Nato, and to offer reassurances on its sometimes tetchy relations with neighbouring states.

Mr Horn, a former Communist who as foreign minister in 1989 played a key role in the decision to open the border with Austria and thereby knock down the Iron Curtain, is likely to express concern over the apparent slowness with which Hungary and its Central European partners are being welcomed into the Western fold.

He will also be trying to encourage British entrepreneurs to show more interest in his country, the first of the former Warsaw Pact bloc to open its doors to the free market.

"We would certainly welcome more British capital here," Laszlo Kovacs, the Foreign Minister, said on the eve of Mr Horn's departure. "And we want to make it very clear that Hungary wants to be in the first wave of Nato and EU enlargement."

Although no timetable has been set for the accession of new members, the Hungarian

government believes it is on course to join the military alliance by 1998 and the EU two years later. It thinks negotiations on Nato membership could start in late 1996, after presidential elections in Russia and the United States, and EU talks in early 1998, about six months after the European Inter-Governmental Conference.

Like others in the region, Hungary has been horrified at the increasingly bellicose way in which Moscow has been voicing its objections to Nato expansion and sees the protests as largely directed at a domestic audience.

"Many here undoubtedly feel that the West pays too much attention to Russian concerns [over Nato enlargement]," said Mr Kovacs. "But in our view, while developments in Russia could lead to a slowing down of the process, they could also lead to an acceleration."

As part of its preparation for Nato, Hungary is seeking to improve relations with neighbouring countries containing large ethnic Hungarian minorities. In March a treaty was signed with Slovakia. Attempts to agree a similar treaty with Romania, which has an ethnic Hungarian minority of almost 2 million, have so far failed but Mr Kovacs insisted there was no prospect of an outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict.

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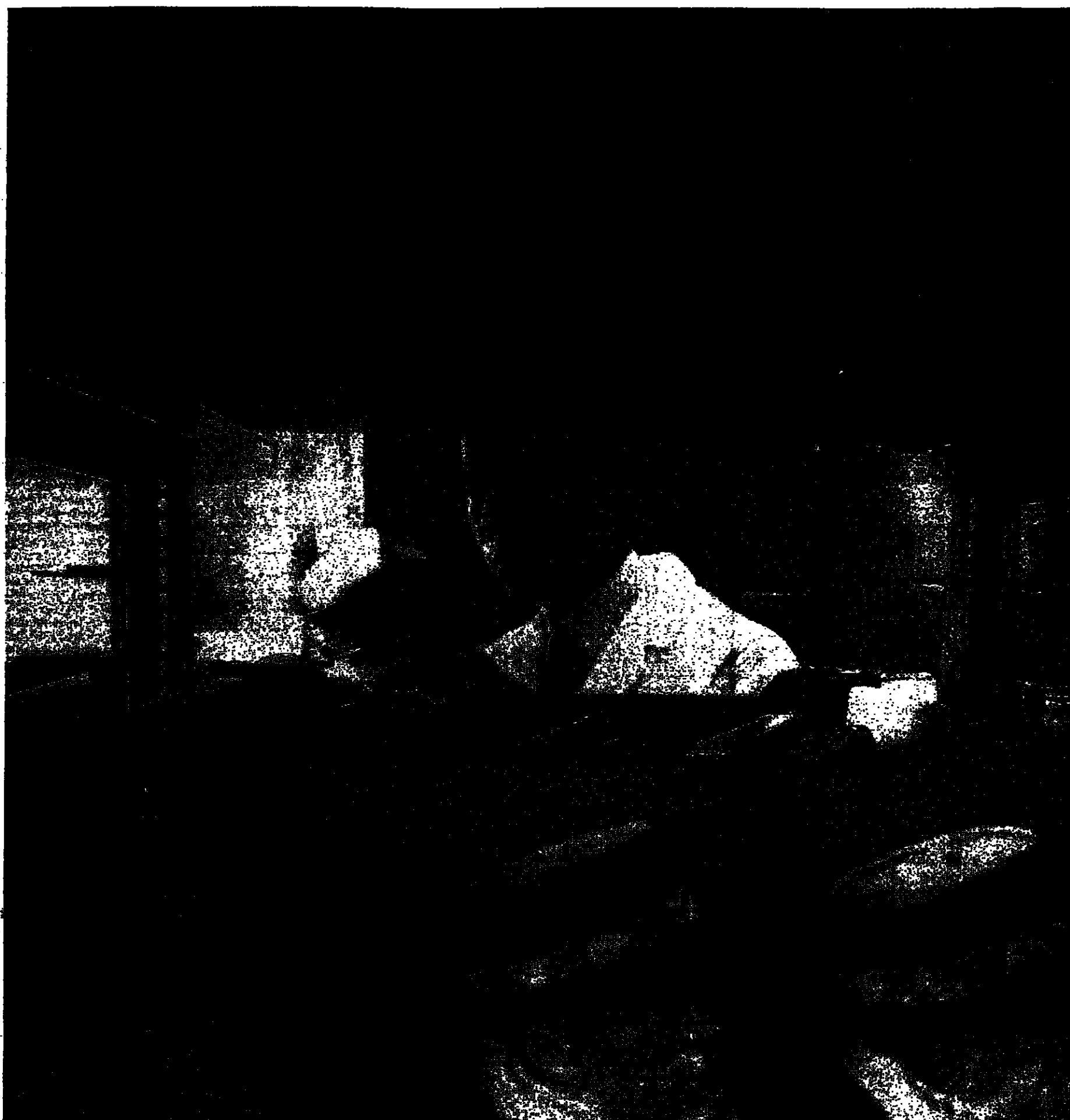
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Malan charges stir fear of white backlash

ROBERT BLOCK
Johannesburg

When General Magnus Malan, a former defence minister and one of apartheid's darkest heroes, appears before a Durban court on Thursday to face murder charges, along with 10 other retired senior military officers, history will be made. It will be the first time high-ranking members of South Africa's old white minority government and its top military brass have

been charged with abuses committed under apartheid.

Commentators compare the envisaged prosecution of General Malan and his comrades to the treason trial of Nelson Mandela in 1963-64 in terms of its legal significance and the impact on the country. "This is the most important political event in South Africa since the 1994 all-race elections," said Paul Pereira, of the South African Institute of Race Relations, a private research group.

General Malan, indicted by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial attorney-general's office, is to be charged with the hit-squad-style killings of 13 blacks, 11 of them women and children, on 21 January, 1987.

Also facing murder charges are a former defence force chief, Jannie Geldenhuys, a former army chief, Kat Liebenberg, a former military intelligence director, Tieni Groenewald, and seven other senior officers.

While the news was greeted with enthusiasm by anti-apartheid activists and ANC supporters, conservative whites and black opposition groups accused the ANC of political opportunism in the timing of the announcement, just before the first all-race local government elections tomorrow. More worrying than the impact on the polls will be the repercussions on Mr Mandela's government of national unity, which includes the National Party of former President FW de Klerk and the Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The issue of Malan's arrest poses the single greatest threat to the government of national unity, said Paul van Zyl, of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, an independent Johannesburg-based think-tank.

Mr De Klerk, the Deputy President, may find himself in a difficult position should the Malan case go to trial.

Mr De Klerk inherited General Malan as defence minister from his predecessor, PW Botha, in 1989 but demoted him to minister for water and forestry because of his confrontational style. None the less, General Malan remained in Mr De Klerk's cabinet until 1993.

The degree of danger to the government depends first on whether the case goes to trial and how much information emerges which might make it

difficult for De Klerk to stay in the government," Mr Van Zyl said. "The second question is to what extent can the government of national unity survive without De Klerk?" Mr De Klerk has asked President Mandela to grant temporary immunity to General Malan to forestall a right-wing backlash.

When he was president, Mr de Klerk granted indemnities to several ANC militants in order to aid negotiations and national reconciliation.

Mr De Klerk wants indemnities granted until the Malan case can be taken up by the Truth Commission, which is expected to start work next year and has the power to grant amnesties to people who committed crimes of a political nature in the apartheid era.

Neither Mr Mandela nor the ANC have indicated how they intend to deal with the situation. Ronnie Mamoepa, ANC national spokesman, said: "For us this is a pure criminal matter."

Guerrilla chief took one risk too many

Patrick Cockburn
on how Fathi Shkaki
made it so easy
for his assassins

Jerusalem — The assassins of Fathi Shkaki, leader of Islamic Jihad, had long been preparing to kill him during his repeated visits to Malta. Their task was made easier by his lack of concern for his own safety.

The number-plate on the motor cycle used for the killer's escape and later found under a bridge was stolen several months ago in Malta, according to Israeli press reports.

They say a motor cycle was probably used because of the heavy traffic in Valletta at lunch time, when the assassination took place.

The most surprising detail to emerge is that Shkaki, who must have known he was the man most wanted by Mossad, the Israeli foreign security agency, stayed in the same hotel nine times in recent years. Although he had a Libyan passport under the name of Ibrahim Shawish, had shaved off his beard and was wearing a wig, Shkaki does not appear to have varied his itinerary.

He checked into room 616, costing the equivalent of £57 a night, at the Diplomat Hotel in a suburb of Valletta in the middle of the morning last Thursday. He had a ticket to return home to Damascus the following day.

Before lunch he walked to some nearby shops to buy shirts for his children. As he returned to his hotel he was shot six times in the head with a silenced pistol, according to the Israeli reports. The assassin was driven away on the motor cycle by a second man.

The motorcycle was abandoned 10 minutes later at the jetty of a yacht harbour. Investigators believe the killers were taken off by boat. No fingerprints were found on the bike. Israeli press reports focus on the professional skill of the assassins, who are assumed to belong to Mossad, but Shkaki



Burning issue: Palestinian protesters used rocks and burning tyres during clashes with Israeli troops patrolling the West Bank city of Hebron, which is due to be handed over to the Palestinian authority early next year. Photograph: Khaled Zighar/AP

evidently had a relaxed attitude to his own security.

Islamic Jihad has promised an attack to avenge the death of its leader but the Israeli government is playing down the assassination. Asked about it yesterday during the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Amman, Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, told reporters: "Oh, leave

it aside. We deal with the major problems of peace in the Middle East." He said earlier he was "certainly not sorry" Shkaki was dead.

In order not to disrupt the conference, Israel has not sealed off Gaza and the occupied West Bank totally, which has been its reaction in other security alerts. Instead, the army raised the age of Gaza workers

allowed into Israel from 30 to 35, barred all students and vehicles from leaving the enclave and said no permits would be issued for Palestinians from the West Bank and Jerusalem to go to Israel.

It is unlikely that the measures will stop retaliation by Islamic Jihad, whose prestige has always depended on its efficiency in mounting damaging at-

tacks on Israelis. It is impossible to seal the West Bank. At the same time, Palestinians on the West Bank do not want the withdrawal of Israeli troops from urban centres over the next two months to be delayed by another suicide bomb or assassination.

Israeli reports say that Ramadan Abdullah Shalah, the new leader of the organiza-

tion, is likely to be as militant as his predecessor. They say that from the late 1980s until last year Mr Shalah was based in Britain, co-ordinating contacts between Islamic Jihad in Syria and Gaza. His brother is serving 25 years in a Palestinian prison for recruiting the suicide bombers who killed 21 Israeli soldiers in January.

Obituary, page 14

CONNECTICUT DAYS

Hallowe'en's avid fans put on a hell of a show

Greenwich — Riding to the airport to report on the Quebec referendum, I am afflicted with guilt about abandoning the family. This time the pangs are worse than usual. There is a danger that I may not be back in time for Hallowe'en.

While not quite on the level of missing Christmas, being away on Hallowe'en is a serious misdeed. You live in the United States and have small children. This is arguably the holiday in the year they enjoy the most, although there will be no presents to unwrap or stockings on the bed.

When the sun goes down on 31 October, all of picket-fenced America surrenders itself to the trick-or-treat terrorism of over-stimulated times (and not-so-fines). Friends allege that if you are not ready for the onslaught and armed with a bowl of sweets, you risk having the house pelted with eggs.

Believe it or not, the consumption of candy is secondary to the thrill of dressing up. It is a costume parade that lasts for several days. The build-up to the evening spans at least a week in the school classrooms and much longer in the card and gift shops, and beckons the participation not just of children but plenty of grown-ups too.

It helps if what you wear has a ghastly theme, although for most children that is not *de rigueur*. In the past few days in the streets of our town I have spotted fairies, pirates, scarecrows and one small baby metamorphosed from head to toe into a toddling pumpkin. The Hallowe'en procession at my five-year-old son's school is this morning, and he will be going as a gaudily wrapped birthday parcel.

For those among the adult population who opt to pitch in, the satanic spirit of the holiday is usually taken much more seriously. Where in a few weeks time there will be reindeer in flight and Santa Claus on front porches and lawns in our neighbourhood, there is now a gruesome collection of ghosts, galleons and carefully crafted cronies on broomsticks.

Then there are the haunted houses. In increasing numbers in recent years, groups of people, often from the churches, have been getting together at Hallowe'en to stage a ghostly experience in one of their homes, or a hall for those with the courage — and a few dollars — to visit after dark. I would like to nominate two of this year's "Haunted House" prizes. One for the most convincing, imaginative and humorous presentation, the other for the sickest.

The nomination in the first category goes to the youth minister at the First Church of Christ in Greenwich and his band of 30-odd ghosts, goblins and scare-experts. For two nights last weekend they

occupied the church's empty, 100-year-old rectory on the main street and turned it into a Hallowe'en theatre event. Worthy of the Psycho house, it is, apply, set in large grounds planted with twisted yews and hemlocks.

My 55 dispensed, I was invited to await the butler at the bottom of the steps to the front door. Stone-faced and dressed impeccably in black tie, he emerged when, fortunately, three other customers had joined me. "General and Lady Putnam will see you now," he announced, showing us through the door into a hallway made smoky with dry ice and barely illuminated by red bulbs on a giant candelabra.

For 10 minutes we were guided by assorted gurgling characters up and down flights of stairs into the attic, the basement and through bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens. At every turn another tableau presented itself: a hellish dinner party with a live severed head on a platter, a chef preparing maggots and "Domino Brain Pizza" — to go. Hands appeared from under doors to grasp at our ankles and voices screamed for help. A waiter leaped from a parlour to offer a plate of eyeballs, severed ears and,

Punters were shown a gay man dying of Aids in a coffin

especially tempting, a "thumb-a-la-Ritz" — a severed digit on a cheese cracker.

The sicko prize is awarded to a Pentecostal church in Arvada, Colorado, that used its mansion to powder the "waste" of homosexuality, abortion and teen depression. This I did not visit, but it attracted sufficient attention to find itself featured on the evening news and many newspapers. The punters were shown a gay man in a coffin dying of Aids, a woman lying in a bath after an abortion, a bloody towel around her middle and a table alongside with a plate of dead animal parts; and a teenage boy with a gun to his head, preparing for suicide.

Paul Valiquette, the Arvada pastor, thought he was doing society a service. "The message is about decisions people make and the consequences." He said of the gay man, played by one of his congregation: "This is the terrible physical devastation brought on by his decision to lead that kind of lifestyle." Hallowe'en is a holiday when suburban America shows off its most generous, community-spirited side. A pity Arvada had to come along and stain it.

DAVID USBORNE

Hong Kong Jockey Club seeks to unsaddle its colonial image

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

This really is the end of an era. The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, one of the oldest colonial institutions, is about to announce the appointment of its first Chinese chief executive, replacing a succession of British former army officers.

The Jockey Club occupies a special place in the life of Hong Kong, not only as the only legal outlet for gambling, but as the leading social centre where the rich and influential can mingle in discreet private rooms set high above the race course.

The old Hong Kong joke has it that the colony is run by the Jockey Club, the Bank (meaning the Hongkong Bank) and the Governor. In that order. Times may have changed but

the Jockey Club is still desperately striving to dispel its colonial image. It will soon drop the word "Royal" from its name and is seeking to attract board members who are well connected to Peking.

The new chief executive will replace General Guy Watkins, an urbane and well-regarded military man who is far too much in the old mould to match the new image that the Jockey Club is trying to cultivate. Speculation about names centres on Kenneth Boey, a previous director of the club's membership-services department.

David Yau, head of the club's corporate-affairs department, said yesterday that "it would be best if [the new chief executive] is an ethnic Chinese and can speak fluent Cantonese and Mandarin, since Hong Kong will

become a part of China." He added: "Of course, to be on good terms with China is always necessary and a good thing, and this is what all Hong Kong people think."

There has been speculation over the appointment of other candidates but Mr Boey is the front-runner for the job, which carries an annual salary of HK\$5m (£416,666).

Ironically, Mr Boey used to work for another pillar of the colonial establishment, the Jardine Group, where he ran its marketing-services division, Jardine Pacific, before emigrating to the United States five years ago.

The Jockey Club is big business. Last year its betting turnover totalled HK\$72.3bn, making it one of the biggest horseracing centres in the world.

Gas firm's notice to would-be suicides leaves a sour taste

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

It must have seemed a reasonable idea. The people at Osaka Gas noticed some of their customers in Kobe were under a misapprehension about their product. So they mounted a public-information campaign. Posters were displayed in the Kobe area spelling out a simple message: "You can't commit suicide with natural gas."

The posters got a response, but not the one the company expected. "We sincerely hoped the poster would help make our customers more aware of the correct use of energy," a spokesman said. "But we just got a flood of complaints."

The company wished to explain that natural gas does not contain lethal carbon monoxide.

The best a would-be suicide could hope for is a gas explosion. But the implication — that suicide is fine by Osaka Gas so long as you don't use its equipment — upset customers. "You might just as well write underneath that there are some very nice pine trees in the park, perfect for topping yourself," wrote one correspondent. "The poster is thoughtless, and offensive to quake victims."

The posters touched a raw nerve in Kobe. Since the earthquake that killed 6,000 in January, suicides have risen. Public utilities (including gas) are back to normal. But there are still 50,000 prefab units housing survivors unable to move to the far-flung apartments offered by the government.

By the beginning of this month the official number of

post-earthquake suicides was 22, although psychologists believe the true total is higher.

Voluntary death has an ancient role in Japanese culture, but as the population ages, it is the escape of the elderly and, alarmingly, the very young. Figures yesterday showed that 86 children of 14 and under killed themselves in 1994, an increase on the previous year of almost 50 per cent; among junior high-school students the increase was from 22 to 87. The youngest suicide was a boy of nine who killed himself after being scolded by his parents.

Osaka Gas noticed a similar trend: after sinking to 10 in 1990, attempted gas suicides in its catchment area rose to 16 last year. None was successful. Now, thanks to those posters, they have a better chance to get it right first time.

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Bosnia outrage: Report absolves troops of blame for incident that led to massacre of 8,000

Dutch deny they betrayed Srebrenica

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

The Dutch government said yesterday that its UN peace-keeping troops bore no responsibility for the fall last July of the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, an episode in which Bosnian Serb forces are suspected of having slaughtered up to 8,000 unarmed Muslims. Presenting an official report into the disaster, the Dutch Defence Minister, Joris Voorhoeve, said Srebrenica's collapse had been primarily a consequence of Bosnian Serb aggression and badly implemented UN policies. "The fall of Srebrenica was caused by Bosnian Serb aggression, not by the way in which Dutchbat (the Dutch UN battalion in the enclave) operated. The opposing forces were far superior in number and firepower. The small Dutch UN unit faced them alone," Mr Voorhoeve said.

He blamed UN member-states for doing too little to protect Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde, the three UN-declared Muslim "safe areas" of eastern Bosnia, although it was clear they were vulnerable to Bosnian Serb military pressure. "The way in which the UN and its member-states implemented the concept of the so-called safe areas failed miserably," he said. "The *Independent* reported yesterday that six weeks before Srebrenica's fall, the UN commander for former Yugoslavia, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, had recommended a UN withdrawal from the enclave on the grounds that it was militarily indefensible. Mr Voorhoeve confirmed that after the Bosnian Serbs attacked Srebrenica in July, UN commanders refused repeated requests from Dutch forces in the enclave for air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs. The Serbs are alleged to have carried out the massacres after capturing Srebrenica and separating thousands of Muslim men and boys of fighting age from women and children. They are said to have taken the males to locations where they were killed and buried in mass graves. Describing the lightly armed and poorly supplied Dutch unit in Srebrenica as a "largely symbolic" UN presence, Mr Voorhoeve said it had been powerless to resist the tanks and heavy guns of the Bosnian Serb forces led by General Ratko Mladic. "Had attempts been made to repel the Bosnian Serbs by force, this would have resulted in a bloodbath among

the tens of thousands of [Muslim] refugees and among the Dutch blue-helmets," he said. The report was commissioned partly to defend Dutch UN forces against claims that they did too little to protect Srebrenica's people against an onrush of Bosnian Serb violence. Based on interviews with 460 Dutch military personnel who served in the enclave and with UN staff elsewhere in former Yugoslavia, the report argues that the Dutch soldiers did their best to perform their military and humanitarian duties. Washington — The United States will present a "detailed and very specific" peace document at the Bosnian peace talks which open this week, according to the chief US negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, Rupert Cornwell writes. But he warned there was no guarantee of success in the "immensely difficult" negotiations that lay ahead. Speaking just before his departure to Dayton, Ohio, where the "proximity talks" begin under a virtual news black-out at the Wright-Patterson US Air Force base tomorrow, Mr Holbrooke gave a pessimistic assessment of the prospects of a deal between the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to end the war in former Yugoslavia.



A UN peace-keeper stands guard in the frontline Catholic cemetery at Stup, near Sarajevo, on the eve of All Souls. Photograph: David Brauchi/AP

Croats deny Tudjman the majority he craves

MARK HEINRICH
Reuters

Zagreb — The nationalist party of President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia headed for victory in parliamentary elections but was well short of the big majority he had sought after crushing rebel Serbs in war. Political analysts said his Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) had prevailed over an opposition coalition on the

strength of his hero status after masterminding the reconquest of Serb-occupied lands in recent months. But Mr Tudjman was denied the two-thirds majority he needs to enshrine his authoritarian rule in the constitution, following a backlash against his cult of personality, and HDZ abuses of power. "Western observers underestimate Croats. Many want no part of unscrupulous one-

party or one-man rule," said Slaven Leticia, a former Tudjman adviser. The HDZ, which steered Croatia to independence in 1991, had 44 per cent of the vote with 71 per cent of ballots counted, the election commission said. A moderate opposition coalition led by the Peasant Party was running a distant second at 18.5 per cent and the Social Liberals were just short of 12 per cent.

Mr Leticia said the HDZ could count on 53 to 56 per cent of the 127 seats but only with the fresh addition of 12 reserved for the Croat "diaspora", who voted overwhelmingly for the government. The government summarily enfranchised 365,000 expatriate Croats, overwhelmingly pro-HDZ rightists and most of them in Bosnia. A manoeuvre that Western observers felt had unfairly tilted the election outcome.

HDZ-controlled state television's favourable coverage of Mr Tudjman's campaign and its restrictive approach to airing the opposition's agenda disturbed European monitors. Council of Europe observers said the government might have to change its new election law before being considered for membership. The government called the elections nine months early to try to obtain a two-thirds ma-

majority. But HDZ candidates beat rivals handily only in regions near former or current front lines, including one remaining rebel enclave, Eastern Slavonia, that Mr Tudjman has vowed to reconquer by Christmas. Opposition parties trounced the HDZ in Zagreb, and in liberal havens such as Istria, which has been largely untouched by ethnic strife since 1991. Extreme right-wing parties were all but wiped out.

IN BRIEF

Five to die for murder of Nigerian leaders

Lagos — A military-appointed tribunal in south-eastern Nigeria sentenced five people to death on charges of murdering four leaders of the oil-producing Ogoni region, witnesses said. The same court in the town of Port Harcourt will deliver a separate judgment on the Ogoni minority-rights leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and four others facing similar charges. *Reuters*

Tanzanian election declared null and void

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania's electoral commission declared null and void the chaotic multi-party polls held in the capital on Sunday. Main opposition parties called for an interim government to be set up as the scale of the chaos in Tanzania's first such polls emerged. Election officials and materials arrived late or not at all at an unknown number of the country's 40,000 polling stations on Sunday. *Reuters*

Troops kill 132 Tamil Tigers

Colombo — Sri Lankan troops advancing on the northern Tamil Tiger guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna killed at least 132 rebels and lost 41 of their own men in two battles, according to the military authorities. *Reuters*

N Koreans return remains of UK soldier

Seoul — North Korea returned the remains of a British soldier believed to have died during the 1950-53 Korean War. This is the first repatriation of remains from the war in more than a year. A total of 249 sets of remains of United Nations Command soldiers have been returned since 1990. *Reuters*

100 lashes for maid

Malawi, United Arab Emirates — Sarah Balabagan (right), a Filipina maid, was sentenced to 100 "light lashes" and a year in prison for manslaughter after her death sentence for killing her boss was overturned on appeal. Balabagan, 16, was also has to pay blood money to the dead man's family. It was not clear if the 14 months she has spent in prison would count towards the sentence. *AP*



Guerrilla's 25-year career curtailed

Buenos Aires — One of Latin America's most wanted left-wing guerrillas was captured as he celebrated his birthday in Mexico City and was brought back to Argentina after 25 years on the run. Enrique Gorriaran Merlo was a founder of Argentina's People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), which waged a campaign of violence against the military in the 1970s. In 1980 he machine-gunned the former Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. *Reuters*

Camorra 'behind people-smuggling'

Salerno — Police detained 55 Indians found in stinking conditions in the hold of a ship off southern Italy and arrested 10 Italians accused of trying to smuggle them into Europe. A police statement said the Camorra, or local Naples Mafia, was believed to be involved in the operation. *Reuters*

Turkey a step nearer EU customs accord

Luxembourg — The European Union and Turkey finalised details of a customs union and called on the European Parliament to approve the accord. The Spanish Foreign Minister, Javier Solana, said accords on textiles and car exports had removed the final obstacles to the union coming into force on 1 January. *Reuters*

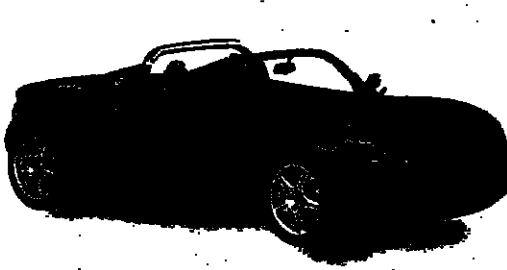
Cross dwarf courts indignity

Paris — Manuel Wackenheim wants the European Court of Human Rights to act against France for banning dwarf-throwing. The 3ft 10inch Frenchman is furious he has now lost the income, and apparently the enjoyment, he got from being hurled around by bulky men. France's highest administrative court ruled last week that dwarf throwing was degrading to human dignity. *Reuters*

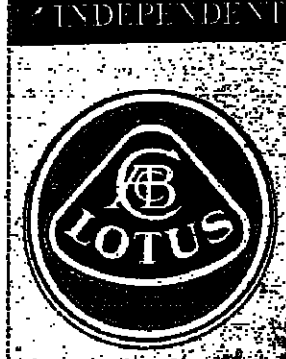
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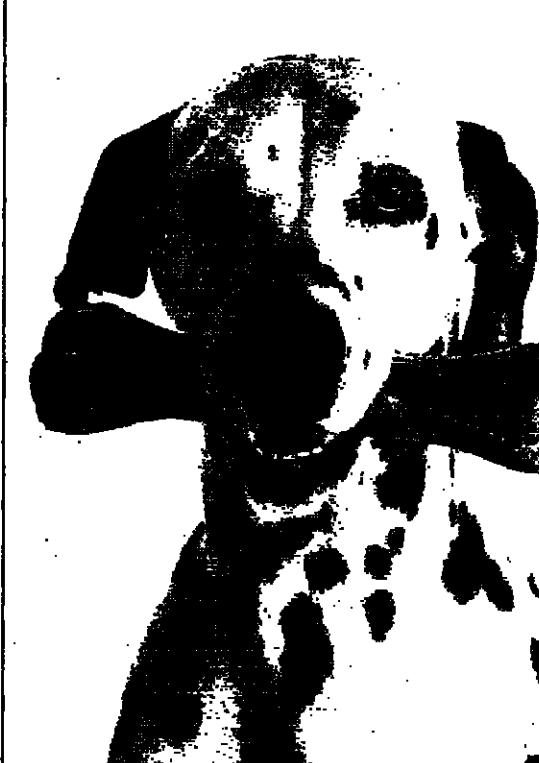
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Mike Dutfield

It was tragic but perhaps in character that Michael Dutfield's vivid life should have ended in sudden death in a motorcycle accident. From his days at Cambridge, where he won a Blue for boxing, to filming under the Israeli bombardment of Beirut or sniper fire in Northern Ireland, this consummate television journalist and producer never chose the easy option. In the week he died, he was preparing for trips to Tajikistan and Algeria to film at the front line of those dangerous wars.

Born in Chingford in 1947, he went to grammar school in Ludlow and then to Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, to read English. While shifting beer barrels for a holiday job, he met Heather Campbell; they were married in 1970. A job offer to teach English took them to Zambia, but political changes there led to their being expelled. After a short career selling lavatories in Rhodesia, they made their way to South Africa where Mike persuaded

the *Rand Daily Mail* to give him a three-day trial as a reporter. It was the turning-point of his career: four and a half years covering the abuses of apartheid (including being jailed during the 1976 riots in Soweto) fuelled a passionate concern for the underdog, which his own success never diluted.

From South Africa he returned with his family to Britain where he got his first job in television at the BBC. His good humour and sharp intelligence made him one of the most sought-after young producers in the business, even if his abiding suspicion of anyone in authority did not stop with his own bosses. He turned out a succession of accomplished films for programmes like *Tonight* (1977-79), *Newsnight* (1979-81), *Panorama* (1981-86) and (when he was persuaded to cross the line by ITV) *This Week*.

Even though producers are generally responsible for the journalism, the film quality and the logistics of their films, it is

the fate of most of them to be less well-known to the outside world than the reporters who appear on screen. Many of the famous faces of television would readily acknowledge the debt they owed to this producer: Mike Dutfield was always the name they asked for on any difficult assignment.

It was more than his willingness to face danger in pursuit of stories. His cool judgement and concern for the lives of his crew meant he was the safest person to be with when the going got tough. As he worked his way to the heart of trouble in Amagh, Albania, Sarajevo, Mississippi, Beirut, the West Bank, Sudan and southern Africa, his shield was a stubborn honesty that was grudging respect from even the hardest villains.

In 1989, after winning the Royal Television Society award for his Northern Ireland series *Families at War* (BBC2), he became a founder member of the independent production company Barraclough Carey. In

creasingly, he began to work on his own. The spare, unblinking quality of his direction gave his films a suit of real life which could be grippingly painful to watch. In *A Marriage of Inconvenience* (ITV, 1990) he told the story (both in a book and a film) of Seretse Khama's battle to marry a white woman in the teeth of opposition from the British government. *Welcome to Hell* (BBC1, 1992) revealed the daily tragedies of apartheid through the prism of Soweto's largest hospital. And, most recently, for *The Fall of Saigon* (BBC2, 1995), he tracked down the last American to leave South Vietnam - and some Vietnamese they abandoned - to create a film described by one American critic as "the documentary of the decade".

Dutfield's three principal areas of concern were Northern Ireland, the Middle East and South Africa. To each he brought deep knowledge and understanding born of first-hand experience. He was not

given to taking the word of politicians and experts, preferring to test their pronouncements against what he observed and heard from people who lived day and night in the heart of these troubled areas. In the series *From Beirut to Bosnia* (Channel 4, 1993), he explored (with Robert Fisk, of the *Independent*) the roots of Islamic fundamentalism in ways that made uncomfortable viewing for those who prefer to dismiss it all as terrorism. These and his many other films made up a corpus of work that marked him out as one of the pre-eminent producers/directors of his generation.

Despite the maturity of Dutfield's work, there was a streak of the teenager in him to the end. Neither his thick, light brown hair nor his faded jeans seemed to change much in 20 years. His wife's passion for fast skiing he endeavoured to keep up with; his own, for fast bikes, she endured - once riding pillion all the way to Morocco.



Dutfield: teenage streak

They and their two daughters, Louise and Claire, lived in a large rambling house in west London that seemed open all hours to friends from around the world. Fond of argument and passionate when having one, he would diffuse any situation with a sudden rush of laughter.

George Carey

Michael John Dutfield, journalist, television producer: born Chingford, Essex 19 July 1947; married 1970 Heather Campbell (two daughters); died near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire 27 October 1995.

Professor Charles Mitchell

Charles Mitchell will be remembered for his contribution to the study of the revival of classical studies in Renaissance Italy and for creating an outstanding graduate school in Renaissance art history at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. As chairman of its art-history department from 1963 to 1975 he introduced to the United States the traditions of the Warburg Institute at London University, where he had been a lecturer from 1945 to 1960.

At Bryn Mawr he was ably assisted by James Snyder and Charles Despey, and together they formed an impressive team. He had an unrivalled ability to inspire young people to engage in research, and was the midwife of a surprising number of important books and articles. Possessed of a frail physique, the result of his determined fight against physical disability, the after-effects of polio, he none the less moved in a sprightly fashion, especially in libraries. He had an unruly shock of tousled curly hair, perpetually descending spectacles and an ever-enquiring good-humour.

He was born the eldest son of an artist-accountant, Stanley Mitchell, from whom he inherited an infectious enthusiasm for the art of William Morris, his father having been a pupil of W.R. Lethaby. From Merchant Taylors' School he went to St John's College, Oxford, to read History. He later changed to read PPE, because he wanted to study philosophy. The relationship between art and philosophy was always to be one of his concerns, particularly Neoplatonism in the Italian Renaissance and how it informed the enigmatic imagery of one of the greatest Renaissance monuments, Alberti's *Temple Malatestiano* at Rimini.

At Oxford he was a contemporary of John Pope-Hennessy, the future Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, in London; they were the "aesthetes" as opposed to the "rugged heuristics". As an undergraduate he asked Sir Karl Parker in the Ashmolean print-room if he could study art history. Though surprised at the idea of having a student, Parker consented. Under his guidance Mitchell wrote a BLitt thesis on Grünewald and the Isenheim Altarpiece, a thesis also unofficially supervised by Fritz Saxl at the newly arrived Warburg Institute, in London. This may have been the first thesis in art history at Oxford.

Charles Mitchell's first position was at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, from 1935 to 1939, where he acquired a knowledge of marine painting, and in later years when visiting collections he could attribute marine landscapes with unusual accuracy. He had a passion for Nelson and for Norfolk, where he had a small cottage at Burnham Overy, and one of his most re-

markable articles was to be on Nelson, written for the festschrift for Rudolph Wittkower, a close colleague during his Warburg years. Even when in Naval Intelligence he claimed to have applied art-historical principles to the analysis of German uniforms.

While at Greenwich Mitchell was inspired by the Warburg Institute, and after the Second World War he joined their staff. It was in these early years of the institute that German art historians gave a new impulse to the study of English art history, which stimulated Mitchell's publications on Hogarth and 18th-century English history painting. In those years Saxl was his mentor, but he also found directions for future research in Aby Warburg's library and photographic collection.

One of his many students at the Warburg was Bernard Smith, later first professor in art history at the Power Institute, Sydney, whose pioneering book *European Vision and the South Pacific* (1960) was one of the many written as a thesis under Mitchell's supervision. Later at Bryn Mawr Mitchell supervised Margaret Manion and Virginia Spate, who were to give Australian art history an international distinction.

In his scholarly writings Charles Mitchell was concerned with the relationship between the revival of classical culture and art. He wrote a number of classic articles on such subjects as Giotto and Assisi, on the *Temple Malatestiano*, and the most famous novel of the Renaissance, the *Hyperborean Poliphili* (1499).

His principal books focused on the Quattrocento Renaissance antiquaries: *Cyriac of Ancona and Felice Feliciano*, who recorded the physical remains of the ancient world in such a way that they inspired Renaissance artists like Mantegna and Alberti. Mitchell was, with Edward Bodmer, responsible for the first serious editions of Cyriac's writings. Their edition of a Renaissance biography of Cyriac will be published next January.

Mitchell's varied interests are exemplified by his book-*Hogarth's Peregrination* (1957), *A Fifteenth-Century Italian Plutarch* (1961), *Piero Ligorio's Roman Antiquities* (with Erna Mandowsky, 1963), *Cyriac of Ancona's Journeys in the Propontis and the Northern Aegean, 1444-45* (with Edward Bodmer, 1976), *Lewis Carroll's Hunting of the Snark Illustrated by Henry Holiday* (with M. Gardner and S.H. Goodacre, 1981).

His last years in Oxford were impaired by ill-health, when he was devotedly looked after by his wife Jean.

Jayne Anderson

Charles Mitchell, art historian; born London 25 January 1912; lectures Warburg Institute 1945-60; Professor of History of Art, Bryn Mawr College 1960-75 (Emeritus); Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities 1975-80; Edith Cleaves Barry Visiting Professor of Art History and Criticism, Bowdoin College 1980-82; Clark Professor at Clark Institute, Williams College 1982; Kress Professor at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington 1984-85; married 1935 Prudence Yalden-Thomson (died 1940; one son), 1944 Jean Flower (one son); died Oxford 23 October 1995.

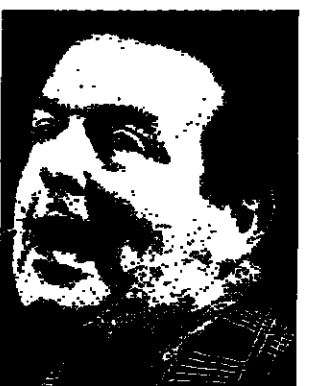


Mitchell: descending spectacles

David Healy

Agreeably round, his features always ready with a friendly grin, David Healy was a versatile character actor who could play military men or gangsters with equal conviction. But he was most effective in comedies and musicals, and it was in the latter genre that he won particular acclaim, notably with his memorable National Theatre portrayal of the Runyonland gambler turned revivalist in *Gus and Dolly*.

Raised in New York and Texas by an Australian father and a Texan mother, Healy majored in drama at Texas University. One of his close friends was Larry Hagman - they both played small roles at the Dallas auditorium run by Margo Jones, who pioneered arena-style staging. When posted to England with the US Air Force (as a Sec-



Healy: show-stopping

ond Lieutenant) he found that Hagman, already stationed there, had arranged for both of them to be part of a touring Air Force information show written by John R. Briley (later to win an Oscar for *Gandhi*).

Leaving the military in 1964, Healy pursued his theatrical career in England. He had married an English girl and settled in Richmond, Surrey, where his wife opened a poodle stable and where Healy could indulge his love of horses. With his American accent, affable personality and versatility, he was soon in demand for both stage and television plus occasional films.

He made his London debut in Jules Feiffer's *Crawling Arnold* at the Arts Theatre. In 1967 he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company, appearing in *Julius Caesar*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Feiffer's *A Little Murders* both at Stratford and

in London. A period with the National Theatre in 1973 included *Equus*, *The Cherry Orchard* and a memorably comic slow-witted cop in the hit revival of *The Front Page*. He returned to Dallas in 1975 to play a notable Falstaff at their Shakespeare Festival, and repeated the role in London with the RSC the following year. In 1993, his performance in Arthur Miller's *The Last Yankee* was very well received.

He occasionally returned to America, where he appeared in the superb television series *Washington: Behind Closed Doors* as well as *Charlie's Angels* and *Dallas*. His films included *Diamonds are Forever* (and several other "Bonds"), *Paton*, *Twilight's Last Gleaming* and, most recently, *Chaplin* (1992). His countless television appearances in Britain included *Call on a Hot Tin Roof* with Laurence Olivier, who had directed him on stage in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, and *Death of a Salesman* with Rod Steiger.

His first musical was *Anne of Green Gables* (1969). Ten years later he starred in *Songbook*, a pastiche biography of a fictitious composer, Mooney Shapiro, played by Healy. Each night he stopped the show with his rendition of "Nazi Party Pooper". In 1982 he again stopped the show nightly in Richard Eyre's acclaimed revival of *Gus and Dolly*. As "Nicely-Nicely Johnson" Healy bounced his way joyously through "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" with infectious fan and deservedly won him the Olivier Award as the year's Best Supporting Actor.

Five years later he was Buddy, one of the four main characters in Sondheim's *Follies*, and his pleasing tenor blended felicitously with the tones of his co-star Daniel Massey when they duetted "Waiting Around for the Girls Upstairs". His association with classic musicals continued with his appearances in the present Radio 2 series of broadcast shows - over the past year he has been heard in *Kismet*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Call Me Madam*, *The Music Man* and *One Touch of Venus*.

Tom Vallance

David Healy actor: born New York City 15 May 1929; married 1961 Peggy Walsh (two sons); died London 25 October 1995.



Doctor and radical, reader of E.M. Forster and Said Qutb: Shkaki, leader of the suicide-bombing Islamic Jihad, was killed last week

Dr Fathi Shkaki

Fathi Shkaki was scarcely an obvious candidate for the leadership of one of Israel's most fanatical Islamist enemies. He never formally studied theology and did not even greet his visitors with the "Salaam Alaiکم" ("Peace be upon you") which he might have been expected of him. He did not quote the Koran; indeed, he read E.M. Forster and boasted of his knowledge of English poetry.

But the man who inspired him ended up either on an Egyptian gallows or imprisoned in the United States for involvement in the planning of bomb attacks. Born in the Gaza slum of Shubeira in 1951 to a Palestinian family who had been deported by the Israelis from their home near Ramallah three years earlier, Shkaki was educated at the local United Nations school before studying physics and mathematics at Bir Zeit University, on the West Bank. Many Islamists of the time - like several of the men who now help to direct the insurrection in Algeria - were fascinated by science and, after graduating in 1975, Shkaki travelled to Egypt, the birthplace of

so much radical theological thought in the Middle East, to study medicine at Mansoura University.

Right up to his death at the hands of unknown gunmen in Malta last week, the leader of "Islamic Jihad" would recall his days at Mansoura, the inspiration he derived from studying in a town that was the scene of a famous Arab defeat of the Crusaders, his involvement in the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and his study of the works of Hassan al-Banna, the Brotherhood's assassinated leader. He met Salah Sariya, the Palestinian radical executed for trying to overthrow President Sadat of Egypt in 1976 and apparently listened to the sermons of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who was himself implicated in the successful murder of Sadat before travelling to the United States where he was this year convicted of sedition.

Shkaki also acknowledged the influence upon him of Said Qutb, whose book *Under the Shadow of the Koran* became the bible of the radical Islamic

movement in the mid-1970s. It was the teaching of Qutb - who was executed by Nasser in 1966 for supposedly plotting an Islamic rising - which convinced Shkaki that the corrupt and dependent secular governments of the Arab world must be replaced by Islamic societies.

Oddly, he also read Marxist literature - including it is said, the entire works of Marx - without being touched by socialism.

With his newly acquired medical degree, Dr Shkaki travelled to Jerusalem where he started work in general practice at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, meeting with other Palestinians who believed that the old Arabist-style opposition to Israeli occupation was worthless and that only an Islamist movement could achieve any political or "military" success against the Israelis. Ironically, he once admitted to me that it was only the PLO-dominated Intifada uprising which gave life - if that was the right word - to the Islamic Jihad movement that he founded in 1981. "Before the Intifada, it was difficult to recruit for military cells," he said.

"But, afterwards, many of the young wanted to do military operations. After the Oslo accord, this increased. Some of these youths insist they want to lead a suicide operation."

Islamic Jihad carried out a series of suicide bombings against the Israelis, the most devastating of which - using two young Palestinians with explosives strapped to their bodies - killed 19 Israelis outside Tel Aviv last January. One of the bombers, Salah Shaker, was an acquaintance of Shkaki's.

By this time, Shkaki had spent three years in Israeli jails and been deported from the occupied territories. He was thrown across the border into Lebanon in 1988 and subsequently travelled to Iran and finally to Damascus. He refused to discuss his possible death - perhaps believing that, now he was only the nominal head of Islamic Jihad, his own life was no longer at risk. He was wrong.

Robert Fisk

Fathi Shkaki, medical practitioner: born Gaza 1951; married; died Valetta 26 October 1995.

Broadcast words capable of being defamatory

LAW REPORT

31 October 1995

Gillick v British Broadcasting Corporation and another: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett) 19 October 1995

The words "But after you won that battle... there were at least two reported cases of suicide by girls who were pregnant" when spoken by a another participant in a live television broadcast to Mrs. Victoria Gillick, a well-known campaigner whose action to prevent doctors giving confidential advice on contraception to girls under 16 had succeeded before the Court of Appeal in 1984, were capable of bearing the defamatory meaning that Mrs Gillick was, by pursuing that campaign, morally responsible for the girls' deaths.

The Court of Appeal by a majority dismissed an appeal by the defendants, the BBC and Mrs Susan Pearce, and affirmed the decision of Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a High Court judge on 4 March, who ruled in Mrs Gillick's favour on a preliminary issue in her libel action.

The action was brought after Mrs Gillick and Mrs Pearce took part in a BBC programme called *The Garden Party* on 27 July 1989. Their discussion concerned the work of Brook Advisory Centres, over the 25

years since the first one opened in 1964, in providing young single women and girls with contraceptive advice. Mrs Pearce's verdict was that they had "done a very good job" in helping to reduce teenage pregnancies. Mrs Gillick's view was that they were a "total disaster" and that her legal campaign, which succeeded before the Court of Appeal but which failed in the House of Lords the following year, had done more to reduce teenage pregnancies.

Mrs Pearce then said: "But after you won that battle... there were at least two reported cases of suicide by girls who were pregnant." Mrs Gillick claimed these words were libellous and meant she had caused or was morally responsible for the death by suicide of at least two young girls. The defendants did not seek to justify the words as having been true; but they argued that in any case they did not mean that Mrs Gillick was culpable.

Andrew Caldecott QC (*Judith Long, Shepherd's Bush*) for the defendants; Mrs Gillick appeared in person.

Lord Justice Neill said the actual meaning of the words complained of had yet to be de-

cided: the judge's decision was on the question of law as to whether the words were capable of bearing the meaning alleged. In considering that issue, the following principles were relevant:

1) The court should give the words the natural and ordinary meaning they would have conveyed to the ordinary reasonable viewer watching the programme once.
2) The hypothetical reasonable viewer was neither naive nor unduly suspicious. He could read in an implication more readily than a lawyer but he was not avid for scandal.
3) The court should be cautious of an over-elaborate analysis of the material.
4) A television audience would not give the programme the analytical attention of a lawyer to the meaning of a document, an auditor to the interpretation of accounts, or an academic to a learned article.

5) In deciding what impression the material complained of was likely to have on the hypothetical reasonable viewer, judges were entitled, if not bound, to have regard to the impression it made on them.

6) The court should not be too literal in its approach.
7) A statement was defamatory if it would tend to lower the plaintiff in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally, or be likely to affect a person adversely in the estimation of reasonable people generally.

In this case the defendants accepted that the reasonable viewer could infer there was a clear link between Mrs Gillick's success in the Court of Appeal and the "suicides". But they argued the programme did not suggest she was "culpable". His Lordship was unable to accept that. It would be for the jury to decide what the words complained of actually meant in their context. At this stage, his Lordship was satisfied that within the spectrum of meanings of which the words were capable was the meaning that Mrs Gillick was in some sense to blame for the girls' deaths and therefore morally responsible to a culpable degree.

Lord Justice Evans concurred. Lord Justice Millett dissented. Mrs Pearce had accused Mrs Gillick of having been tragically mistaken, but that was all; and though deeply wounding it was not defamatory.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

BIRTHS

CARTER/KING: To Fanny and Alexander, a son, Theodore James, on 21 October 1995.

DEATHS

BEECH: Dr F.W. peacefully on 27 October after a long illness, beloved father of Colin, David, and Mick. Private cremation. Memorial service to be held at a later date. No flowers please. Donations to the Royal Marsden NHS Trust c/o R. Davies & Son, 831 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8TN which will be used for the Ray Fowler Leukaemia Research Fund.

DUTFIELD: On 27 October, in a road accident, Michael John, beloved husband of Heather and father of Louise and Claire, son of Midge Dutfield, of Ludlow, Shropshire. Funeral service at 2pm on Friday 3 November at St Matthew's Church, Ealing Common. Donations if wished to the Michael Dutfield Memorial Fund, c/o NatWest Bank, Hammermill Corporate Office, 1-15 King Street, London W6 9HS.

McLEAN: Antonia, wife of Ruari and mother of David, Andrew and Candice, on Wednesday 25 October 1995, in hospital in Glasgow after a very

Births, Marriages & Deaths

short illness, surrounded by her family. Service at Bussaness Church, Isle of Mull, at 12.30pm on Thursday 2 November. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Arthritis Rheumatism Council for Research (Southland), 29 Forth Street, Edinburgh.

MATTHEWS: At the age of 28 in a tragic accident on Tuesday 24 October, Simon John, most beloved husband of Angela, dear son of Alan and Gaynor, cherished brother of Benjamin and Patrick. Funeral service on Friday 3 November at Dalnattar Crematorium, Clydebank, Glasgow, at 1.30pm and thereafter a thanksgiving service at Hyndland Parish Church at 2.30pm.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 (fax 0171-293 2010).

Women of the Year

Princess Alexandra was guest of honour at this year's Women of the Year Lunch held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. Nine Simonie Veil was the international guest of honour. Among others present were:

The Marchioness of Lichfield, Founder President; The Countess of Arundel, Miss Val Arundel; Mrs Charlotte Baker-Powell; Lady Healey; Miss Virginia Wake.

Royal Over-Seas League

Professor Arthur Ellison was guest speaker at a meeting of the Discus-

sion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's, London SW1. His subject was "Is there a Scientific Explanation for Out-of-Body Experiences?" Dr Habb Zahner presided.

Victoria and Albert Museum

Dr Nasser D. Khalili delivered the inaugural Khalili Lecture yesterday evening at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7. His subject was "Islamic Art through the Centuries". Mr Elnor Thorslund QC, President of the Board of Deputies, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. G. I. Spooner and Miss J. Deane

The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Sir James and Lady Spooner, of Fyfeley, Northamptonshire, and Janet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Deane of Mississauga, Ontario.

Birthdays

Mr Russ Ballard, rock musician, 48; Miss Barbara Bel Geddes, actress, 73; Mr Eddie Charlton, snooker player, 66; Mr Michael Collins, astronaut, 66; Mr Hugh Crutwell, former Principal, RADA, 77; Miss Dale Evans, actress and singer, 83; Viscount Falkland, former Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, 76; Dr Ian Fife, Secretary-General, World Medical Association, 62; Mr Dick Francis, novelist, 75; Mr Edward Gould, Master, Moultonborough College, 52; Miss Lee Grant, actress, 66; Mr John Gunter, theatrical designer, 57; Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, publisher and editor, 74; Mr Alastair Hetherington, former Editor of the *Guardian*, 76; Mr Michael Hoffman, deputy chairman and group chief executive, Thames Water, 56; Mr H.R.F. Keating, crime novelist, 69; Mr Barrie Keeble, playwright, 50; Mr Michael Kitchen, actor, 47; Mrs Angela Knight MP, 45; Professor

Robert Mahler, physician, 71; Mr Charles Moore, Editor, the *Daily Telegraph*, 59; Mr Malise Nicholson, former chairman, MacConnell Salmon Ltd, 74; Mr Tim O'Connor, comedian, 55; Sir Jeremy Rowe, former chairman, Occupational Pensions Board, 67; Sir Jimmy Saville, broadcaster, 69; Mr John Sweetman, Clerk of Committees, House of Commons, 66; Sir Derek Thomas, former diplomat, 66; Lady Wilton, chairman, National Consumer Council, 56.

Anniversaries

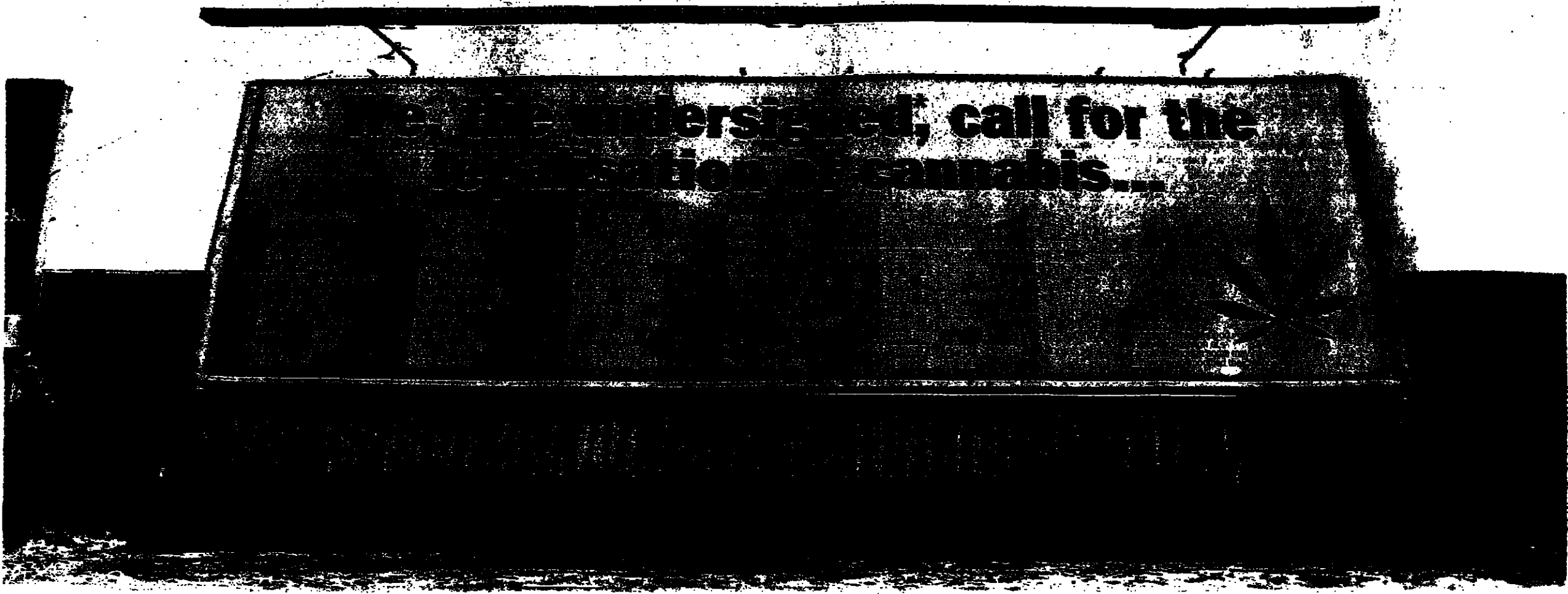
Bertha: John Evelyn, diarist, 1620; Jan Vermeer (Johannes Van der Meer), painter, 1632; John Keats, poet, 1795; Chiang Kai-shek, Chinese leader, 1887; Deshaus Harry Houdini (Edwin Weiss), escapeologist, 1876; Mrs Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister, assassinated 1984; Federico Fellini, film director, 1903. On this day: Martin Luther nailed his theses to the church door in Wittenberg, 1517. Today is All Hallowes' Eve and the Feast Day of St Bee or Bees, St Follan of Fosse, St Quentin or Quintinus and St Wolfgang.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Witches and Devils: Salvador Rosa Witches at their Incantations", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Jacqui Lewis, "Pins and Poking Sticks: the foundations of fashion 1600-40", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Princess of Wales, Patron, Foundation for Creative Education, opens the National Institute of Creative Education, Monday, Birmingham. The Princess Royal visits the factory of Strathclyde Quality Scotland, Glasgow, Tuesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Wednesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Thursday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Friday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Saturday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Sunday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Monday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Tuesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Wednesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Thursday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Friday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Saturday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Sunday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Monday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Tuesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Wednesday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Thursday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Friday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Saturday. The Queen's Birthday Honours, Sunday. 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Professor Charles Mitchell



Roll up for an adult debate about drugs

Despite the wide use of cannabis, politicians refuse even to discuss legalising it. Jack O'Sullivan weighs the arguments

Cannabis is the talk of Britain. There are lots of words for it: marijuana, pot, puff, blow, grass, skunk, purple haze. A quarter of all 15- and 16-year-olds admit to using it. Six million of us have tried it - 1.5 million have a regular spliff. Just one group of people is oblivious to the phenomenon: top politicians hate talking about dope.

The law is being made an ass, but question Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and he'll tell you that change is out of the question. Jack Straw, his Labour shadow, (and one-time fun-loving student leader) will go red in the face of suggestions that the main parties should come up with a better "joint" policy.

You can see why they're cautious. A substantial minority may be drawing on their black Leb, but most voters still hate the whiff of weed. Six out of 10 believe, according to a poll commissioned by the *Independent*, that the drug should remain illegal. Even among the 15-24 age group almost half oppose bringing cannabis within the law. Of course, this means that lots want change, but party policies are studiously ignoring them. "Give the majority what they want, don't let the minority smoke what they want," is the motto.

And when Clare Short abandoned orthodoxy and called for a rethink on pot, her initiative was firmly stubbed out. Stay on line was the word from Labour's smoke-filled backrooms, forcing yesterday's apology from the Labour front-bencher.

Yet Ms Short knows, as well as her colleagues, that this popular phenomenon will not be blown away by

silence. Cannabis is cheap and readily available across the country: £7.50 - the price of a round of drinks - will buy one-sixteenth of an ounce, enough to keep a group of youngsters mellow for an hour or two. And it is considered relatively harmless. Against the hundreds of thousands of deaths associated with tobacco use and health problems produced by alcohol, a spliff seems innocuous to many people.

The police appear to agree. Senior police officers want reform. On their patches, they are changing policy on the quiet. Offenders are treated more leniently than in the past: those receiving cautions for cannabis possession have risen from 1 per cent of cases in 1981 to 45 per cent in 1992. But policy varies greatly around the country. Sally Murray of

the Kaleidoscope, a drug rehabilitation centre, says: "It depends on the whim, knowledge and intelligence of individual officers."

But official policy remains unflinching. The law retains draconian provisions. The maximum penalty for possessing cannabis is still five years in jail plus a fine: dealing in the drug could leave an offender behind bars for 14 years. The jailing of Graeme Steel, son of Sir David Steel, the former Liberal Democrat leader, shows what can happen: he was sent down for nine months after police found 40 cannabis plants at his home. Cannabis use is also landing more and more people with a criminal record. In 1993, more than 50,000 people were so branded for using cannabis, almost three times as many as in 1983.

So is it now time to liberalise the law? Opponents of change marshal a number of arguments. First, they put forward the "escalation theory", the view that cannabis use leads directly to the purchase of harder drugs such as heroin. They point out that cannabis is the first illegal drug that most present heroin users bought. But this does not clinch the argument since the majority of cannabis users never try anything harder. Indeed, it is frequently contended that making cannabis legal might actually reduce heroin use by cutting down on the number of people consuming unlawful narcotics and so making themselves open to trying other illegal substances.

Health is the next issue that conservatives raise. We do not know the long-term effects of cannabis use,

which may cause cancer of the lung and other parts of the digestive tract. The drug contains high concentrations of potentially carcinogenic tar and users tend to inhale more deeply than cigarette smokers. There is a raging medical controversy on this issue. In 1992, Gabriel Nahas, Professor of Anaesthesiology at New York University, alleged that marijuana carried a serious cancer threat. But his evidence, methods and quotation of literature have been heavily attacked by his peers as unreliable.

There is another health problem, namely the strength of cannabis now available. Potency has increased hugely following the cross-breeding of plants and genetic engineering, which means that a spliff may now not only give a sense of relaxed well-

being, but hallucinations that could damage anyone who was mentally unstable.

Despite these concerns, it is hard to sustain the cannabis ban on health grounds as long as tobacco remains not only legal, but also widely advertised. There is little evidence that the danger to adults of consuming cannabis is so great as to justify the state curbing civil rights.

The real reason why the leadership of the two main political parties have decided not to reform the cannabis laws is because each is worried about being labelled soft on drugs by their opponents. The pillorying of the Liberal Democrat conference in 1994, after delegates voted for a re-examination of the issue, gave a clear warning to any serious politician tempted to break ranks.

Against these cautious conservatives running the main parties are ranged the back-bench reformers. Right-wing libertarians such as Teresa Gorman see the state as having no right to interfere. They have found common cause with Labour leftwingers such as Tony Banks, angered that so many are needlessly being outlawed.

There is, however, a great range of opinion among reformers about the extent of change that is needed. The easiest measure would be to repeal the 22-year-old ban on the medical use of cannabis for conditions such as multiple sclerosis: two-thirds of people would support this amendment, according to our opinion poll.

Others argue for general decriminalisation of cannabis. Users would be subject to a token fine if caught in public, but face no greater penalty than those guilty of a parking offence. But most campaigning groups, such as Release, the national drugs and legal advice service, want more dramatic change. "If we had proper legalisation," says director Mike Goodman, "we would have proper quality control of this drug, taking it out of the criminal world and making sure consumers and young people had the same protection that applies to other products."

The rational argument looks to be in Mr Goodman's favour. It may be time for politicians to relax, loosen up a bit. But this week's censoring of Clare Short suggests that they remain a long way from being capable of conducting a serious debate about the issue, let alone instituting liberal reform.

Amsterdam, where liberalism hasn't run out of puff

When it comes to drugs, Amsterdam is a city that has found a way to balance liberalisation with control. The city's policy is based on the principle of harm reduction. It allows the sale of soft drugs like cannabis in designated areas, while maintaining strict controls on hard drugs like heroin. This approach has resulted in a significant reduction in the social and health problems associated with drug use.

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Diary

VICKY WARD

Mountaineers have been angered by an advert in this month's *Climber* magazine for Sprayway, a mountain-climbing manufacturer. It is a two-page spread, one half of which is a large picture of Alison Hargreaves before her tragic death on K2 earlier this summer. Beside it is a blurb starting: "It is better to have lived one day as a tiger than one thousand years as a sheep." It ends with the tribute: "A tiger in a world of sheep." At the bottom it states that the advert has received the backing of Ms Hargreaves' family.

Mountaineers who knew Ms Hargreaves feel it is tasteless in the extreme. "Both the principle of making money out of the dead and the idea that the rest of the mountaineering community are 'sheep' are scarcely ones which appeal," says one.

The magazine's editor, Tom Prentice, who has himself just returned from the Himalayas, has been deflecting the complaints. "I did not actually see the advert until I read the magazine," he says. "It's important to bear in mind that Sprayway will have booked the ad before her death and will have had to adjust their campaign."

Sprayway is taken aback by the reaction. "The reference to 'sheep'," says the managing director, John Hunt, "was meant to refer to non-climbers. The advert is a tribute to Alison, which is why the Sprayway logo is very small."

In the Middle Common Room at Newnham College, Cambridge, an idea has been toyed with that is far more radical than the current proposals to ban Trinity's Great Court Race after an accident this year. In a bid for political correctness, Newnham's postgraduates voted last week to cancel Christmas.

My source explained: "Several people on the committee felt that to hold a Christmas dinner would be offensive to non-Christians. By Friday their view was the majority view."

The weekend, including perhaps a hearty roast on Sunday, has thankfully restored sanity to the group. "They have changed their minds. Christmas is now going ahead," sang my spy jubilantly.

To the Travellers Club (where

smooth. There was one person, Jenkins grudgingly admitted to me afterwards, who had refused to speak directly to him. "But," he added hesitantly, "it's perhaps not fair to criticise them."

Pause.

"You see, she has actually helped all along in other ways."

Longer pause.

"Well," said Jenkins, now obviously uncomfortable, "she is the subject of the book..."

I have discovered that I have something in common with Olivia Gollancz, co-founder of the erstwhile publishing company Victor Gollancz: we are two of the very few people in this country who have never seen the pantomime *Cinderella*. For me this signified confusion when everyone else laughed at the recollections of the Gollancz author Simon Brett, celebrating his 50th birthday and 50th publication at the Grange Club last week. "Many years ago my first book, *Baron Hard-up*, had been rejected by five publishers," he told his guests, "but Olivia Gollancz chose to accept it. What I had not realised was that she did not know who Baron Hard-up was. She later told me that she chose to accept the book purely on the grounds that she thought the title meant something rude."

Here's one for pedants to add to the Dictionary Disasters file. A colleague tells me that when loading the magnificent CD-ROM version of the *OED* on to his computer, the machine, after copying over the relevant files, displayed a message saying: "This application has been successfully (sic) installed." Groan, groan.

At least it's not as bad as Oxford's *Mini-Dictionary of Spelling* a few years back that contained an errata slip apologising for the spelling of "litterate".

On Friday a solitary fax arrived at the offices of Channel Five. Broadcasting at the same time as they heard the astounding news that their consortium had secured the Channel Five franchise. It was from David

Elstein, part of a rival consortium, New Century TV. "Congratulations," it began, "it has been a long haul..." Can it be any coincidence that Elstein, director of programmes at BSkyB, knows that his contract there ends in January and that Channel Five Broadcasting has not yet announced its director of programmes? Hmm. At Channel Five, they are in no doubt whatsoever.



Nourmand: upset over lost posters

The first European gallery to specialise in original film posters has opened in Soho. Thanks to Tony Nourmand and Bruce Marchant, you can now purchase an original advert for Charlie Chaplin's 1914 film *Laughing Gas* for a mere £25,000. "These posters have risen in rarity value," explains Nourmand (his cheapest are around the £1,000 mark), "because throughout this century so many have been destroyed."

He and Marchant believe that there are still hundreds out there whose owners simply don't realise their worth. On their collecting excursions the duo came across spectacles of poster destruction that almost reduced them to tears. "In Oregon," says Nourmand, "Bruce stumbled upon a butcher who had once owned the local cinema. Bruce asked where the posters were and to his horror discovered that the man was wrapping up steaks in thousands of pounds worth." The rest of you have been warned.

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Short-circuiting the drugs debate

Clare Short's 24-hour career as a Labour front-bench spokesperson on home affairs, following her remarks to David Frost about legalising cannabis, is the sorriest illustration yet of the way that mainstream politicians are closing down debate as they scramble for the high, centre ground of public opinion.

It is reasonably clear that the British public is not yet ready to legalise or decriminalise any of the drugs currently restricted by the Misuse of Drugs Act. A poll commissioned for the *Independent* and Channel 4 last spring suggested that six in 10 of us think that the use of cannabis should remain illegal.

And yet it is grimly self-evident that the policies so far espoused by our politicians to address the issue of drug abuse are not working. The number of registered addicts has multiplied fivefold in a decade. Prosecutions for cannabis possession have more than doubled in that period and maximum fines have gone up by a factor of five. Graeme Steel, son of Sir David, was jailed for nine months on Friday for a first offence involving marijuana. It is estimated that over a third of property crime is drug-related.

Meanwhile, the Government has admitted that its shock tactic of advertising assault on young people has failed; now the focus is to be placed on education work in primary schools. Most tellingly of all, the number of people, especially young people, who use drugs recreationally continues to soar. The latest surveys suggest over a quarter of 15- to 16-year-olds are active participants in the drug scene. The Institute for the Study of Drug Dependency thinks that the deviant

teenager of the new millennium will be the one who has not experienced drugs in a recreational setting.

This litany of statistics, and the human despair and dislocation with which it connects, does not in itself make the case for legalising cannabis, but it surely demonstrates the bankruptcy of existing policy.

You might think this would be the cue for a serious and open-minded debate. The *Independent* has long argued for the legalisation and licensing of those drugs that have little or no ill-effect on health if used in moderation, like alcohol, like cannabis and (in all probability) like the dance drug Ecstasy. The case is that only by placing these substances within the law can their quality and strength be regulated and their supply detached from the forces of organised crime that hauriate on their back. Prohibition of these drugs is doomed, over time, to prove as futile as the Volstead Act, which outlawed the sale of alcohol in the United States between 1919 and 1933.

It is simply not tenable that we should expect a widening circle of our citizens to live their social lives outside the law. If we cannot shock them or punish them out of this behaviour, we are frankly not much more likely to talk them out of it between reading lessons and nature walks.

What is overwhelmingly obvious is that these issues need thorough examination by politicians who have flexible minds and a good deal of courage. Ms Short has a good deal of the latter and a growing disposition towards the former. Her silencing is a blow to healthy politics.

... and why it's good to talk

Students of politics are used to doctrines: the doctrine of flexible response (nuclear weapons), the doctrine of ministerial responsibility (relations between Civil Service and Cabinet) and, of course, the doctrine of collective responsibility.

This last doctrine – Short's Bane as it might be dubbed (see above) – seems to be deployed whenever there is the least sign of interesting and genuinely revealing political discussion breaking out in Britain. So keen are the parties to control the agenda that posturing about how right-wing the Tories are – or the loomings behind the mask of Blair – has taken over from any real discussion of how to solve the country's problems.

This is odd. Policemen are free to express their opinions about policy, as are social workers, judges, doctors, journalists and members of the public. Only ministers and shadow ministers are expected to stay silent, or to parrot internal briefing documents, rather than give the voters the benefit of their real views. This means (to paraphrase Yeats) that the best are not allowed to hold any convictions while the worst – pace a well-known roster of back-benchers – are full of a passionate and often ignorant intensity. This high-level reticence is one of the reasons that politicians are held in low esteem by the public – they are seen to behave like school prefects rather than modern professionals.

Of course it would be naïve to expect our political parties to abandon collective responsibility on every issue. In Britain

it is central to persuading the electorate that you can form a credible government and take difficult decisions together. Where specific policy decisions have been taken by Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet after proper discussion then members who disagree have the option (too infrequently used) to resign and explain their reasons. Otherwise the continual public cacophony of ministers contradicting each other, or resiling from each others' unpopular policies would drown out all sensible debate. Only in Israel, it seems, is the system robust enough to allow the public to know about the inner discussion of cabinet, and to be told how ministers have voted.

So the question is where you draw the line. On broad issues of policy direction and on questions where public debate has not reached a conclusion (such as over drugs, the future of the welfare state and Europe) it is crazy for leading politicians in every party to be so constrained. Sure, it is much more convenient for the spin-doctors, the political ad agencies and the party managers if all the brethren sing resolutely from the same hymn book. It means no more headlines about "embarrassment", no more "gaffes", no more "red faces".

But when – as now – we live in an age that demands a boldness of vision and an openness of debate, such caution actually jeopardises the search for solutions and policies. Adverse headlines in the *Daily Mail* or the *Sunday Times* may be unpleasant, but stifling discussion is, in the long term, much worse.

ANOTHER VIEW Chris Davies

I've been there, Clare

What a pathetic bunch of people politicians can be. When it comes to the drugs issue we're mostly out of touch, trailing hopelessly behind our law enforcers and too frightened to stick our heads above the parapet.

And with good reason. Clare Short airs her concerns, echoing the Liberal Democrats in calling for a serious review of our drugs laws, and instantly she is attacked by party colleagues and opponents alike.

I've been there, Clare. Never a day passed during my by-election campaign without my being accused of being "soft on drugs". But it wasn't the Tories who did most of the attacking, it was the Labour Party and its spin-doctor-in-chief, Peter Mandelson.

Fortunately my Liberal Democrat colleagues supported me fully, as well they might, for the views I hold are not only in line with party policy but very similar to the Association of Chief Police Officers. Have you noticed, by the way, that the Home Secretary only listens to the chief constables when he likes what they have to say?

I don't want an approach that is soft on drugs, but one which is hard on the criminal drug barons. Yet nothing will be achieved so long as we ignore reality.

Some 6 million British citizens are said to have taken cannabis. Many have experimented with something a lot stronger. The vast majority will have suffered fewer ill-effects than those produced by nicotine

addiction or excess alcohol. Our law makes criminals of millions of people who have done no harm to others. We even penalise cancer patients and those with multiple sclerosis by denying them access to the therapeutic properties of cannabis.

The approach taken by most government and opposition leaders is to call for more of the same. To avoid attack by opponents seeking to score political points, they claim that the existing approach to enforcement will one day succeed in curbing drugs use.

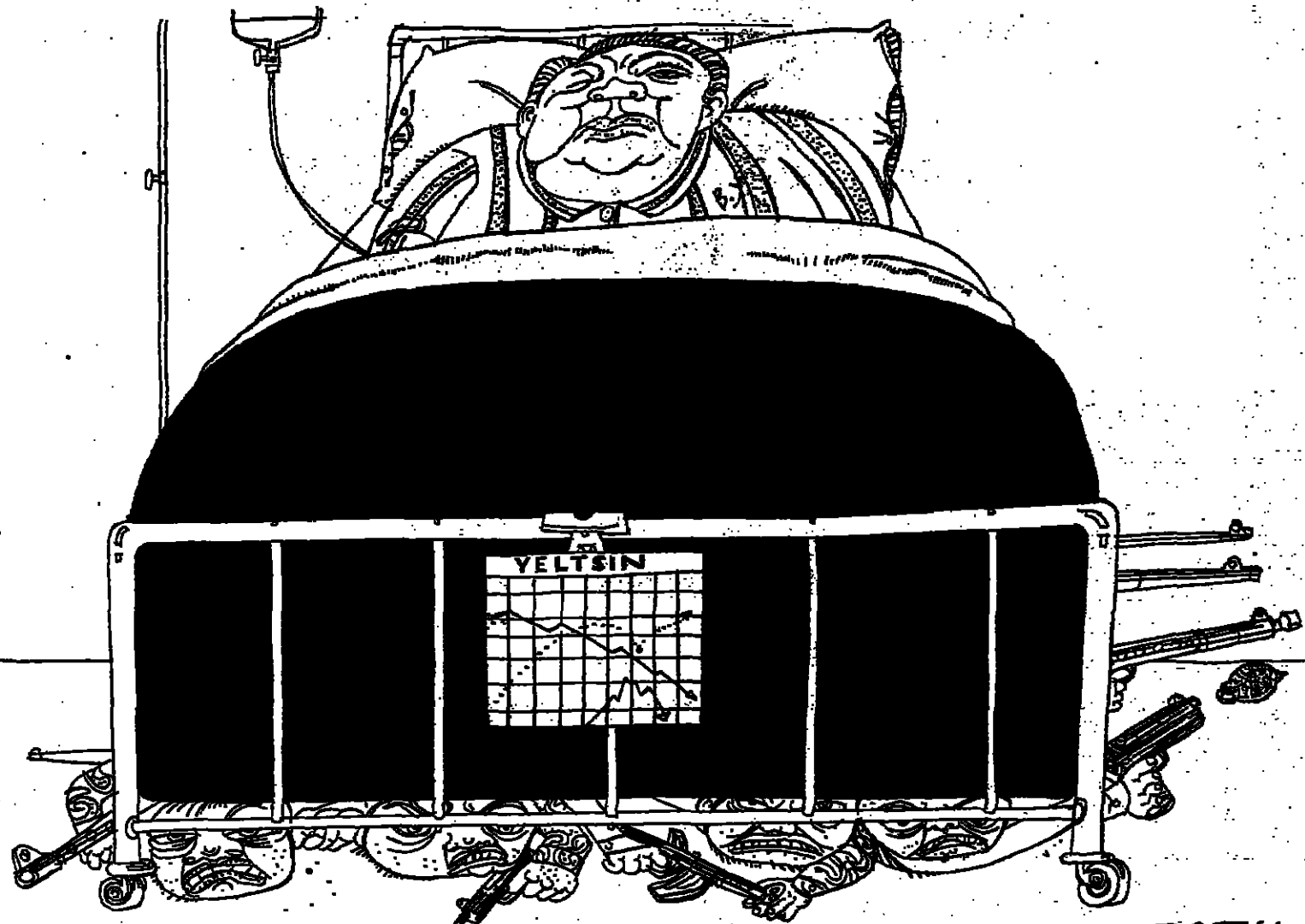
Hard drugs can do immense harm, but the existing laws offer no solution to the problem. The prohibition approach isn't working in any other country and there is no sign that it will work here.

I am convinced that the criminality associated with the drugs trade is now a greater threat to society than the effects of the drugs themselves. But while politicians keep their heads buried in the sand the drug barons will keep laughing all the way to the bank.

It is time to study the full range of alternative strategies, and Liberal Democrats believe that a royal commission could provide the best forum for serious discussion.

There will be no easy answers. But MPs should at least have the courage to start asking the questions.

The writer is Liberal Democrat MP for Lichfield and Saddleworth.



Reds under the bed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's be honest about the economics of trade

From Mr George Walden, MP

Sir: Yesterday you carried Sir Alan Walters' article "A secret member of the ERM?", opposing a single currency and commending himself on his own infallibility. Since Sir Alan is standing against Kenneth Clarke in Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party in the next election, presumably with a view to replacing him as Chancellor, the views of Sir James – his backer and putative Prime Minister – are pertinent.

Sir James's excellent book *The Trap* shows that Sir Alan and himself are out of step on the fundamental questions of international economics. I changed to read *The Trap* both in French (*Le Piège*) and English. For reasons best known to Sir James, his study defence of the ERM was omitted from the English version. Sir Alan should know that *Le Piège* included the words:

If we want a free market in Europe it is imperative to accept a monetary discipline. You know, the ERM, as it was conceived, worked well. It was a flexible mechanism... It is necessary to prevent competitive devaluations which would completely skew the market.

The latter sentiment is identical with that of the French government, whose policies Sir Alan derides in his article.

On the ERM side, Sir Alan has an excuse, though he should read *Le Piège* in the original, but there is no excuse for his failure to declare his disagreement with Sir James on something even

more fundamental than the ERM: namely free trade. Sir Alan speaks and writes like a free-trade fanatic. Sir James – an intelligent, experienced and reflective man – takes a wider view. The main strength of his book was that it asked questions about the consequences of unstrained global free trade, not just for European employment, but for Europe's culture, institutions, and ecology.

I suspect I know why Sir James adapted his book somewhat for Anglo-Saxon consumption: the British abhor paradox, and Sir James's opposition to a single currency and support for the principle of the ERM, though perfectly logical, were thought too confusing for an English audience.

None of this features in the Walters/Goldsmith election manifesto, which is simplistic stuff. It is easy to ask loaded questions about domination by Brussels and a single currency; many of us, myself included, are against both. It is infinitely harder to pose the real questions, such as the long-term effects of competitive devaluations, and where global free trade is taking us. Sir James has done this in his book. Why feel shy about it? And why sponsor candidates who dodge fundamental issues.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN
MP for Buckingham (Con)
House of Commons
London, SW1
30 October

From Sir Fred Catherwood

Sir: Alan Walters has always been right about the EMS. It was, and is, too weak. With a free market in goods, services and, finally, capital, each country defending its exchange rate out of its own currency reserves, the countries in deficit were vulnerable to the loss of half their reserves before breakfast at the touch of a thousand electronic buttons.

There are only two answers: Sir Alan's is to float the currency; the European Union's is to form a currency union that is too strong for the speculators. But we, of all people, should know the cost of floating. We have lost nine-tenths of the value of our currency since the pound floated, and until we fixed the pound in the ERM, inadequate as it was, the assumption in wage bargaining was that we were a chronically inflationary economy.

Since we fixed, we have had the lowest rate of inflation for decades, despite our exit from the ERM and a devaluation, which has raised the costs of imports. But the potential for inflation has not gone away.

What is Sir Alan's message to the Ford Motor Company, now faced once more with a double-digit claim? And why should the Chancellor not try to keep the exchange rate stable and inflationary expectations low? Nationalism has a high economic price.

Yours sincerely,
FRED CATHERWOOD
Balsham, Cambridgeshire
30 October

The views of those who watch

From Dr Stephen Castell

Sir: In justifying the Independent Television Commission's choice of winner for the Channel 5 licence – on quality, not "highest bidder", grounds – Sir George Russell, its chairman, said that "exercising discretion on programme quality was slap bang in the middle of our job".

The worry, however, is that the ITC appears to believe it may conduct its assessment of licence bids according to its own definition of the word "quality".

British Standard BS4778 defines quality as the: totality of features and characteristics of a product or service which bear on its ability to satisfy a given need.

Quality is thus not simply some private, unstated view of perfection. It is, by the relevant standards to which the ITC, like everyone else, is obliged to adhere, "fitness for purpose". Best practice in management and delivery of quality dictates that this purpose, and need, must be carefully formulated by those for whom the service is intended, and, once agreed by them, explicitly and unambiguously written down.

Fares fair

From Mr Nobuto Sakamoto

Sir: I am writing in response to the article about the British Rail sell-off ("Few takers for rail sell-off", 23 October). The Japanese government sold its railway system to a private company several years ago; since then, its service has improved and has started to be more on time. Now trains have a restaurant and better service;

they have even put a sauna on the train.

When selling a railway system, we take the risk of the fare being raised, but I would prefer to have a comfortable service that is on time, rather than paying less and getting less, especially when I travel long distance.

Yours faithfully,
NOBUTO SAKAMOTO
Osaka, Japan
25 October

Lesbians and women's issues

From Mr Richard Bewick

Sir: In her review of Sally Cline's award-winning new book, *Lifting the Taboo: Women, Death and Dying* (14 October), Polly Toynbee takes issue with an idea that, at the moment of death, men and women might not be equal. It is an idea entirely her own. She has misread the book's argument, which suggests that it is the lead-up to death, the responses to terminal illness and the experiences of bereavement that are different for women and men.

Ms Toynbee's second distortion is in suggesting that the major focus of the book is on lesbians and that their inclusion is unwarranted. The book in fact focuses on the experiences and responses of dying women, bereaved women and women carers, who include mothers, daughters, widows and partnerless women from many different cultures and classes, whose sexuality may be heterosexual, bisexual, celibate or lesbian.

More critical is her penultimate sentence:

Nothing wrong with lesbians, it is just that they have no place in studies about women *per se*. The issues are utterly different.

Lesbians, like female heterosexuals, are women and therefore have a place in studies about women. Had Ms Toynbee written: "Nothing wrong with blacks..." the evident racism would, one hopes, have prevented her review from appearing.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BEWICK
Editorial Director
Little Brown
London, WC2

South Africa's time to forgive

From Mr Maritz van den Berg

Sir: The campaign against John Lloyd, the Labour Party candidate for Exeter, is ill-founded and vindictive ("Terrorism" returns to haunt candidate", 27 October).

I was a friend of John Harris, the anti-apartheid activist who (as your story tells) was executed in Pretoria on 1 April, 1965. After the explosion at Johannesburg station on 24 July, 1964 I was among those arrested by the security police and held for interrogation in Pretoria gaol. Following my release on 27 August, I attended the whole of the Harris trial in the Transvaal Supreme Court and was present when Lloyd gave evidence against Harris (who had, by then, signed a full confession). I corresponded with John Harris in the death cell after his conviction and visited him regularly in Pretoria gaol, our last conversation being on the day before his execution.

I want to place on record that John Harris bore John Lloyd no grudge, said so, and tried (I believe) to convey this message to Lloyd – whether successfully or not I do not know. Indeed, he had no grounds for any grudge. Lloyd was innocent of an act planned and executed entirely by Harris but found himself at risk of being charged as an accessory to an offence carrying the death penalty. He succumbed to unbearable pressure and went into the witness box.

John Lloyd was guilty of human frailty, but then who isn't? After these many years I for one wish him good luck.

Yours faithfully,
MARITZ VAN DEN BERG
London, SW15

From Mr Ron Press

Sir: The events in which John Lloyd was involved have been

well documented. John Lloyd has, on numerous occasions, expressed his remorse and openly admitted his mistakes of that time. The liberation movement in the UK discussed these matters years ago and accepted his atonement as genuine.

Other far more extreme cases illustrate the attitude of the ANC. Dirk Coetzee was a member of a death squad that murdered anti-apartheid activists. He admitted his mistakes and became active in the struggle for the end of apartheid. The ANC welcomed his change of heart and accepted his help and bona fides.

South Africa has had a turbulent history. This has left a legacy of hatreds, cries for revenge, and traumas. The Government of National Unity, in which the African National Congress plays a major role, has opened the perspective for a new dispensation where the past, having been revealed, can be a stepping stone to reconciliation and hope. The time for revenge and chasing ghosts is past. We are surely bigger than that.

For over 40 years I have been active in South Africa and the UK, in the African National Congress, the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and the anti-apartheid movement. I was accused of treason in the 1950s and exiled in the 1960s. What we struggled for has come to pass. Now is a time to build. Do not let the mistakes of the past destroy our future. But more importantly do not let those mistakes made in South Africa be used for the generation of vendettas in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
RON PRESS
London, N2
29 October

No profit from blood money

From Mr John Adey

Sir: Your recent coverage of the sale of blood products to Turkey may have left some confusion in readers' minds. First, it is important to distinguish between blood and its major component – red cells, platelets, and plasma.

Hospitals pay only a handling charge for the red cells and platelets. This charge covers the cost of collecting, testing, processing and delivering and no profit is involved. In order to meet the rising demand for red cells – currently increasing by 4 per cent a year – the National Blood Service sometimes produces a surplus of plasma.

Plasma is frozen and most is sent to the Bio Products Laboratory (BPL) to be made into a range of blood products, including Factor VIII for haemophiliacs. These products are licensed pharmaceuticals and sold in competitive markets. BPL offers surplus blood products for sale abroad only if they are genuinely surplus to the needs of patients

in the UK. BPL pays a share of the costs referred to above and sets its prices at a level to recover these and other costs. It does not make a profit. The money from these sales is reinvested in the service and benefits patients in this country. The National Blood Service never collects blood in order to create a surplus.

The alternative to selling the surplus products is to burn them. Although the idea of giving them away free to countries that need them sounds attractive, it is not always viable. When efforts have been made to do this by other organisations it has not proved possible to ensure that the products reached the patients for whom they were intended.

The National Blood Service has asked donors about this issue in the past and they have generally agreed that it would be preferable to sell the products and reinvest the proceeds in the service rather than to burn them. A further survey is soon to be conducted.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ADEY
Chief Executive
National Blood Service
Watford, Hertfordshire

Sorry sight

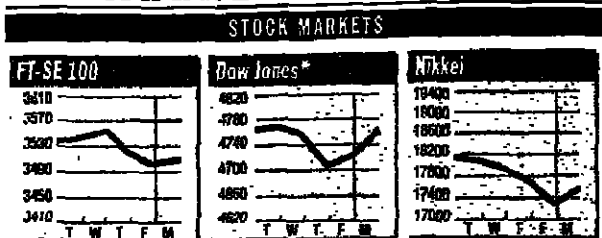
From Mr Tony Kelly

Sir: Kate Rankin (letter, 28 October) is concerned about how to say sorry to another driver when she makes a mistake. I cross myself – a sure sign of penitence.

Yours faithfully,
TONY KELLY
Oxford

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MARKET SUMMARY



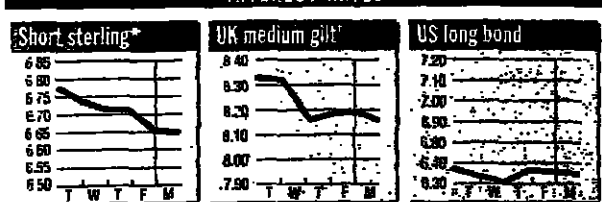
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	12 Mo High	12 Mo Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3510.0	+12.1	+0.3	3653.0	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3882.5	+18.2	+0.5	3991.3	3300.9	3.5
FTSE 350	1747.3	+6.5	+0.4	1785.3	1477.0	3.9
FT All-Share	1940.8	+1.2	+0.1	1993.7	1678.6	3.4
New York	4795.1	+13.0	+0.3	4814.7	3674.6	2.4
Tokyo	17509.2	+172.0	+1.0	19989.8	14485.4	0.8
Hong Kong	9672.4	-8.4	-0.1	10032.9	6987.9	3.3
Frankfurt	2146.1	+50.0	+2.4	2317.0	1911.0	2.0
Paris	1795.3	+53.0	+3.0	2017.3	1721.1	3.8
Milan	3208.0	-3.0	-0.1	10911.0	8912.0	2.5

*New York at 1430 hours, New York graph at 1330 hours

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FTSE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts)							
Rises				Falls			
	Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change		Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change
Wimpey (George)	105	5	5.0	T&N	144	4	2.7
Eng China Clays	346	14	4.2	Berlford	150	4	2.6
Crusoe Security	330	13	4.1	McKeechle	440	11	2.4
Britannic Air	714	24	3.5	Sears	109	2	1.9
Reuters Holdings	576	19	3.4	Storehouse	301	5	1.6

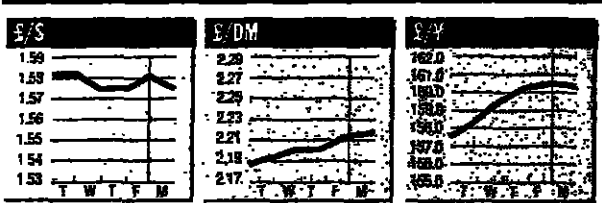
INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates		Bond Yields *				
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	90 Year Ago
UK	6.63	6.72	8.07	8.69	8.23	8.52
US	5.81	5.72	6.04	7.80	6.34	7.96
Japan	0.47	0.34	2.96	4.85	3.60	5.03
Germany	4.06	4.06	6.52	7.84	7.21	8.03

*Benchmark indices

CURRENCIES



Other Indicators	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Latest	Year Ago	Next High
Oil Brent \$	16.30	+0.02	17.30	RPI	150.9	3.9pc	2.4
Gold \$	382.25	-0.50	386.90	GDP	106.8	2.4pc	4.1
Gold £	242.50	+0.33	238.31	Base Rates	-	6.75pc	5.25

Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

Lloyd's to reveal trust plan to names

Lloyd's of London will today reveal plans for setting up on trust lines the giant reinsurance vehicle it hopes will rescue it from the crushing burden of old loss-making policies. Lloyd's will tell names, whose money will provide the capital for Equitas, that a trust is the best way of getting back to them any eventual profits from the reinsurance venture.

The fate of the whole ambitious reconstruction and renewal plan for Lloyd's, of which the setting up of Equitas is a key element, will also be influenced today by a key High Court ruling in the long-lasting Merrett trial. This is the first big Lloyd's trial brought by loss-making names involving auditors, in this case Ernst & Whinney (now part of Ernst & Young).

Open-ended proposals from SIB

The Securities and Investments Board yesterday published its detailed plans for open-ended investment companies, the new investments combining the virtues of unit trusts and investment trusts, which the industry hopes will attract new investors in the UK and also open up new markets in Europe where UK unit trusts cannot be sold. Interested parties now have two months to pass final comments before the proposals are finalised.

Double boost for Trafalgar House

A £20m asset disposal and a likely £200m road building job gave a much needed boost to Trafalgar House yesterday. The struggling conglomerate's shares closed 0.5p higher at 22.75p after it announced the sale of the floating oil production facility, Emerald Producer, and said it had been named, with George Wimpey, as the Government's preferred bidder on the planned A1/M1 link road. A consortium of Laing, Tarmac and Welsh Water will pick up the contract if Trafalgar and Wimpey fail to secure finance.

New president for biotech lobby group

Sir William Stewart, former chief scientific adviser to the Cabinet Office, has been appointed president of the BioIndustry Association, a lobby group for Britain's biotechnology companies. Sir William, who played a significant role in the development of the Government's 1993 white paper on science, engineering and technology, retired from the Cabinet Office in June. He replaces Dr Ron Coleman.

Aid for Seat set for clearance

The European Commission is expected today to clear a 46bn peseta restructuring and state aid package for Spain's car group Seat. Meanwhile, Iberia, the troubled Spanish airline, is thought ready to sell its investments in an Argentine operator as a condition of a 130bn peseta subsidy awaiting EC approval.

Brockbank in talks with investors

Brockbank Group, the Lloyd's underwriting agent, said it was in talks with potential investors. The board said it had long been the group's intention to seek investors in its business to support the underwriting activities of the group's managed syndicates.

Takeover discussions at car group

The board of the car distribution group Frank G Gates last night said it was in talks which could lead to part or all of the company being taken over by members of the Gates family.

PIA gets tough on pension compensation

NIC CICUTTI

Hundreds of thousands of victims of the pension transfer scandal are being denied compensation because their financial advisers are boycotting the system designed to give them redress.

More than half of Britain's 3,500 independent financial advisers are refusing to carry out the first stage of a review laid down by their watchdog, the Personal Investment Authority. They now face the prospect of up to £1m in fines overall, or

even a ban on their right to give financial advice unless special forms they were meant to fill in two months ago are returned.

A PIA spokesman said: "The firms that are not sending in the forms are breaching our rules. This review is extremely important for investors. If we find that someone is not carrying it out simply because they do not want to then we can take disciplinary action. The exact nature of any action will be for a board meeting to decide on in two weeks' time."

Gareth Marr, managing director of Moors Marr Bradley,

who is also a member of the regulator's pensions committee, said: "If we are seen by the public as standing in the way of giving people the compensation they are entitled to, then it will lead to a massive loss of confidence in our sector."

The PIA's new get-tough policy towards its smaller members follows growing concern over the watchdog's ability to enforce its compensation mechanism. The policy follows an inquiry by the City's most senior regulator, the Securities and In-

vestments Board, which showed that up to 1.5 million people may have wrongly been advised to take out a personal pension. Compensating them could cost up to £2bn.

In April, the PIA promised that 350,000 of the most urgent reviews, including many who had already retired or were close to pensionable age, would be completed by Christmas. It now privately admits this timetable is no longer possible. Last week, the contract for a software programme to review all pension transfer cases for the

PIA was handed to Pensions and Actuarial Services, a computer firm. In so doing, the PIA snubbed another company, Marlborough Stirling, doing the same job for the insurance industry. Some experts believe integrating the two systems will cause months of further delays.

The review has also been mired in a bitter dispute between regulators and professional indemnity insurers, who provide cover for financial advisers. PI insurers would be expected to meet the vast bulk of advisers' compensation bills,

running to hundreds of millions of pounds.

Insurers have told advisers that if they carry out the pensions review their cover will be voided because they are encouraging their clients to claim compensation against them.

In June, a legal battle on this issue was resolved in the regulators' favour. But advisers were told they could consider any risk to their indemnity cover when reviewing cases. Despite most insurers now telling them that they can fill in the special form, many are still refusing.

Retail surprise: Analysts attack choice of former public sector manager to revive ailing high street group

Post Office executive to take over at WH Smith

NIGEL COPE

Bill Cockburn, the former Post Office chief executive, will be paid almost £1m over the next two years to turn around the fortunes of the ailing high street retailer, WH Smith.

The company confirmed yesterday that Mr Cockburn, who is 52, will join the WH Smith board tomorrow and become chief executive on 1 January when Sir Malcolm Field retires. He will be paid £425,000 a year for a two-year rolling contract. This will be reduced to one year thereafter. He will also be awarded share options in the company next February, although the number has not yet been decided.

His appointment was immediately criticised in the City where analysts expressed surprise that the company had selected a candidate who has spent his entire working life in the public sector with the Post Office.

Mr Cockburn faces a tough challenge at a company whose profits have been ravaged by tough conditions on the high street and fierce competition from the supermarkets.

One of the attacks Mr Cockburn faces is the challenge from Tesco on the distribution of newspapers and magazines. "I'd like to understand that a bit more," Mr Cockburn said.

Although he declined to make any early statements on strategy he denied the jump from a state-owned monopoly to a quoted company in the full glare of private competition would prove a problem.

However, City analysts expressed surprise at the company's choice. One said: "This is not a conventional retail appointment. I'd have been happier if it had been someone with a strong retail background but those people are in very short supply at the moment."

Tony Shire, a long-standing critic of the group said it was a "surprise choice" but added: "I'm not prepared to write him off just because he has come from the Post Office."

Another analyst said: "I'm not convinced that the Post Office is a good training ground

for high quality of service and value retailing. It is not enough to change my stance on the group." Institutional investors are also withholding judgement on the appointment. One fund manager described Mr Cockburn as "a bit of an unknown quantity."

Justifying his decision, WH Smith's chairman, Jeremy Hardie, said: "I don't think it matters where he's come from. He's a very good leader, good at managing change." He added

that there had been four candidates for the job. Mr Cockburn has been frustrated by the Government's failure to privatise the Post Office and his departure has been expected.

Commenting on his new role he said: "I'm very excited. My first impression of WH Smith is that you've got a high street name that is deeply embedded in millions of people's minds. It is like the Post Office - in touch with the community every day."

Mr Cockburn's pay is substantially more than the £250,000 he earned at the Post Office. It is also more than the £325,000 received by Sir Malcolm Field last year. WH Smith said the increase was due to a pensions adjustment. Sir Malcolm will receive "modest" compensation for agreeing to stay on past his previously agreed retirement date this August.

The eldest of eight children, Mr Cockburn was born in Ed-



Shop front-line: WH Smith and its subsidiaries have been battered by tough conditions and unexpected competition

inburgh and raised in a high-rise flat and then a four-bedroom council house. Although he had sufficient qualifications to go to university, he left school at 18 and joined the Post Office. He has been developing his private sector experience recently by accepting non-executive directorships. He joined the board of Lex, the car and truck dealership, three years ago and is also a non-executive director of Whitebread, the brewing and leisure group.

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The eldest of eight children, Mr Cockburn was born in Ed-

Panel upholds takeover move

The Takeover Panel has ruled out any form of substantive action to ban the use in takeover battles of "contracts for differences" - derivative instruments that allow the bidder to profit from the upward movement in the target's share price.

Trafalgar House and its investment bank adviser, Swiss Bank Corporation, caused a storm of controversy earlier this year by using the device to help cover the costs of bidding for Northern Electric. Some critics likened it to a form of insider dealing.

However, after consultation in the City the Panel has decided against outlawing the practice. The view has been taken that, since bidders are allowed under a Companies Act exemption to profit by purchasing ahead of a bid physical stock in their bid targets, there is no reason why derivative instruments that do the same thing should be treated differently.

A minor rule change to deal with the use of derivatives af-

ter the takeover bid has commenced, is to be proposed, but this would only bring them into line with other disclosure provisions.

Contracts for differences and other derivative transactions entered into by the bidder or its associates during the course of a bid will be made disclosable in the same way as dealings in the physical stock.

The Takeover Panel has consistently adopted a more relaxed view of the use of derivatives in takeovers than other City regulators. It sees little difference between the economic interest a derivative gives in a takeover battle and that given by real shares. The rules should, therefore, seek to treat them as the same, the Panel argues.

In the Trafalgar case the contract for differences caused added controversy since it involved transactions in the shares of a range of other regional electricity companies, as well as those in the target company, Northern Electric.

Express titles 'not for sale'

MATHEW HORSMAN

United News and Media yesterday denied speculation that it was prepared to sell its Express Newspaper titles, despite persistent rumours in the City and among competitors.

But a spokesman confirmed that the newspaper group was looking at ways of cutting costs by working with other newspaper groups to print and distribute their titles jointly.

Rumours about the future of the Express group have been alive for several months, and last reached fever pitch when United announced it was cutting 220 editorial and production jobs, in a move believed at the time to be linked to an eventual sale.

Lord Stevens, chairman, declined to comment on the latest round of rumours. Analysts said that the newspaper group might be considering a merger, under which the more profitable exhibitions and magazine division would be listed separately from the

regional and national newspapers.

United is believed to be frustrated that its more profitable operations do not receive much attention from the City, where attention is drawn to the suffering Express titles.

"Certainly a merger could be on the cards," said one leading analyst. "It would make more sense than to try to sell the titles into the current market."

Reports that the Express titles might fetch as much as £500m were discounted by analysts yesterday. Most estimates place the value of the titles, whose costs have been cut sharply in recent months to overcome the effects of a cover price war, at about £250m. But they add that there are few buyers at a time when newspaper costs are rising and circulation stagnant or falling.

Earlier this year, the company changed its name from United Newspapers to reflect its growing reliance on the exhibitions business.

M0 growth rate lowest for two years

PAUL WALLACE
Economics Editor

The narrow measure of money rose by less than expected in October, bringing its annual rate of growth down to the lowest for almost two years. The development will be useful ammunition for the Chancellor when he meets Eddie George tomorrow at the monthly meeting that sets interest rates.

The Bank of England seized the opportunity to announce a further sale of gilts through taps,

taking the total to £1.25bn in just four days. The Bank makes these announcements in nominal terms, so, because £500m has been raised through index-linked stocks that trade above par, in practice it will have raised considerably more.

"This is a clear indication of the pressures on the Bank of England to get back on track on funding," said Nigel Richardson, head of bond research at Yamaichi International. Assuming the PSBR overshoots to £28bn, that would leave them

having to fund at £3bn a month in the final five months of the financial year, well above the rate so far this year.

According to Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, the figures suggest retail spending in the final quarter will be weaker than expected. M0 has historically tended to track spending in the shops. "The implications for output and demand are worrying," he said. M0 increased by 0.3 per cent in October, well short of the market expectation of 0.5 per cent.

UK money supply (M0)

% change over 12 months



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Rail sweeteners will not worry Brussels



COMMENT

There is plenty wrong with rail privatisation but Labour is barking up the wrong tree on this one

If Clare Short, Labour's new transport front-bencher, expects help in the fight against rail privatisation from her former colleague, Neil Kinnock, she will almost certainly be disappointed. To believe the headlines, Mr Kinnock could prove a big stumbling-block. The truth, however, is that the Brussels transport commissioner has already put the issue in a file marked byings and routine. Colleagues make clear he is showing no signs of turning it into a cause célèbre like his battle with the Spanish government over the rescue of the airline Iberia.

The idea that subsidies for a privatised railway are different from the money already funnelled in huge quantities to the existing state-owned companies is plain daft in a Europe where unsubsidised railways are as common as unicorns. Approval from Brussels is necessary, because the subsidies will be going to private firms and will almost certainly rise for the first year or two. But it is hard to see approval being long delayed. A wider subject point Mr Kinnock must deal with is whether new guarantees given to the three-rolling stock leasing companies, after they are privatised, will amount to state aid, and if so whether the guarantees distort the transport market. The issue arises because the potential new owners of the Roscos, for which bids thought to be worth £1.7bn-£1.8bn are on the table, have been offered two sweeteners.

The first is a contractual commitment by the Government to pay part of the cost – but

less than 100 per cent – of modifying existing rolling stock if the safety authorities demand improvements. Here again, it is hard to see why Brussels would need to interfere. Since the Government already owns the Roscos and is responsible for the entire safety bill, the new arrangements simply switch some of the existing risk onto the private sector. The potential cost to the state will be a consequence fall.

The second sweetener is a guarantee from the Government that in the event of insolvency among the Roscos' customers, the state will pay up to 80 per cent of the lost rental income on the rolling stock. The rationale for this is that since the Roscos will be sold next month before the train operating franchises have been let, their new owners can know nothing of the financial viability of new private sector customers and need protection as a consequence.

Neither sweetener appears to increase the financial risk to taxpayers after privatisation, and it is even harder to see how they could distort the transport market. There is plenty wrong with rail privatisation, but Labour is barking up the wrong tree on this one.

Scholl wins the battle but faces a war

The battle may be over but the war has yet to be won by Scholl, the footcare group that has spent most of the past cou-

ple of months fighting off the advances of a group of hostile shareholders led by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, two South African investors. Messrs Treger and Myerson want the company sold to the highest bidder and to this end they tried – but narrowly failed – to change the complexion of the Scholl board at an extraordinary shareholders meeting earlier this week.

The company is now looking forward to getting back to the business of managing itself but it will be lucky if it is able to do so, since the rebel shareholders are threatening to intensify their campaign. Preparing for the meeting has been costly, both in monetary terms and in management time. One board director says that planning for the meeting has occupied 14 hours a day for the past seven weeks.

If the rebel shareholders had launched a bid for the company and lost they would not be able to come back again, under Takeover Panel rules, for another 12 months. In this case there has not been a bid, but the amount of distraction caused is in many ways comparable. To allow the rebels to lay permanent siege seems as wrong as it would do in a takeover battle. Messrs Treger and Myerson have become like the bad loser in tennis, who refusing to admit he is beaten, continues to challenge until finally he wins.

If such proxy battles become more common in the City – Messrs Treger and Myerson have involved themselves in similar bat-

ties at Liberty and Signet – there might be a case for a change in the rules, giving companies a 12-month moratorium at least from the threat of further shareholders' meetings.

In this specific case there is the separate issue of what money lies behind the public face of Messrs Treger and Myerson. No doubt it is bona fide, but the company and its advisers have no means of telling. Section 212 notices normally enable a company to seek out the true identity of its shareholders, but this method runs into the sand when the shares are held by nominee companies registered in places like Panama and the British Virgin Islands.

Lloyd's names hear an unfamiliar word

Profit is not a word that long-suffering Lloyd's names have heard much of in recent years. So they will be amazed to hear today that they could be in line at some point to profit from the scheme for a grand reinsurance company, Equitas, to take over responsibility for all those old policies, notably pollution and asbestos in the US, that have brought ruin and misery to thousands of Names.

It sounds almost too good to be true, as unfortunately, it does seem to be. The host names can hope for one day to get back a share of any surplus from the funds they are being asked to put into Equitas to cover

all liabilities for policies at Lloyd's written before 1993. However, that day could be a long time coming, so only the more youthful and patient among the hordes of loss-making names can even contemplate their Equitas windfalls.

One of the big problems facing N M Rothschild, the merchant bank charged with the thankless task of attracting outside investors to Equitas, has been the difficulty of projecting a claims pattern for all the outstanding liabilities.

Without this, it is very hard to satisfy investors' need to know what sort of returns they can expect.

Some of the latest policies which would go into Equitas were written less than five years ago, which means having to wait another 30 for the claims against them to be run off.

It may not take quite as long as that to assess whether the £16bn proposed for Equitas is sufficient to cover the liabilities, but it will require a good many years. Moreover, the history of American attempts to set up special re-insurance funds to cover potential liabilities suggests that, far from ending up with a surplus, they usually find the level of claims has in the meantime risen, and the funds provided to cover them turn out to be inadequate. Equitas claims to be different, in that it is trying something on a scale not done before. Hope springs eternal, but don't hold your breath.

Rivals fear British Gas pricing ploy

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

Alliance Gas, one of the main rivals to British Gas in supplying businesses, has called for government action to prevent predatory pricing when the domestic market opens to competition in six months. The company says that licences for suppliers, now in draft form, would fail to stop anti-competitive practices by British Gas.

Alliance, whose concerns are echoed by other suppliers, has demanded changes to ensure no dominant player can abuse its position in the market-place. A spokesman said that under the

latest draft, British Gas could offer special prices to households where competition hits first without extending them to the rest of the country. It particularly fears that British Gas will dramatically drop prices in the South-west, where a pilot scheme offering competition to 500,000 homes begins next April.

The Alliance spokesman said: "We are asking for clarification as to what British Gas will or will not be able to do in the licences predatory pricing is now allowed but the problem is that the definition is not yet satisfactory."

Mobil, another big rival, said:

"There are a number of concerns – we need to make sure that there are proper controls on British Gas or any other dominant players. It's all in the interests of making sure that when we get competition we can be confident it is sustainable competition."

Clare Spottiswoode, the industry watchdog, is known to be concerned about potential anti-competitive practices. But although she will be responsible for issuing licences, they are being drafted by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Ms Spottiswoode has been seeking unprecedented powers to clamp down on any anti-competitive behaviour by British Gas, including the ability to ban suspect activity immediately rather than having to wait until after an investigation, which can take more than a year.

British Gas's rivals are thought to have complained to Ofgas and to the Government that the regulator's existing powers do not go far enough. They argue that companies can go out of business while a lengthy investigation into British Gas is under way.

Some players in the gas industry believe that the only effective solution is an overhaul of UK competition law, which is widely regarded as toothless. But the Government has for years resisted pressure for fundamental change. The issue is one of a range of problems deterring some large companies from making detailed commitment to the domestic market. Recently British Gas was forced to climb down over planned increases in the charges for other suppliers to use its pipes following sharp criticism from Ms Spottiswoode.

Competition in the gas market is due to begin in April in an area covering 500,000 customers in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. If all goes well, competition will be allowed throughout the UK by the end of 1998.

Rivals to British Gas

- Alliance Gas – owned by BP Statoil and Norsk Hydro
- Mobil – serious interest but plans yet to be revealed
- Total Gas Marketing – wholly owned by Total
- Amoco – recently announced joint venture with Seaboard
- Amerade Hess – plans to arrive pricing next week
- Kinetica – owned by PowerGen and Conoco

ITC accused of inconsistency over Channel 5

MATTHEW HORSMAN

Losers in the controversial award of the Channel 5 licence last night accused the Independent Television Commission of inconsistency, and continued to threaten legal action against the television watchdog.

Meanwhile, sources at the licence winner, Channel 5 Broadcasting, led by Pearson and MAI, said they could make a profit as early as the second year of the 10-year licence.

Sparks continued to fly from all directions in the aftermath of last Friday's decision by the ITC to fail two groups – Canadian-backed UKTV and Virgin TV – on the quality of their proposed programming for the new terrestrial channel. The award went to second-highest bidder, Channel 5, which offered £22m a year for the coveted licence.

Robert Devereux, chief executive of Virgin TV, said his consortium was "putting together a lengthy rebuttal of the points made by the ITC" and said it would meet with lawyers today to see about a judicial review.

"We are convinced," he said, "that the ITC has concocted reasons to fail Virgin TV."

Mr Devereux said the ITC's criticism of Virgin's plans for news bulletins was unwarranted.

ed. For its news services, Virgin TV had asked both Reuters and Independent Television News to tender, and said both agreed to provide coverage for roughly the same amount of money.

UKTV was also believed to be closeted with legal counsel last night, to determine whether a judicial review was possible.

The group, backed by CanWest, the Canadian broadcaster, Australia's Channel 10 and SelectTV, the independent producer and cable TV broadcaster now up for sale, bid £36m but was failed on its lack of "diversity" in its proposed programming.

UKTV is believed to want to question the ITC about a meeting on 11 October, two weeks before the award was announced, between CanWest's chief executive, Izzy Asper, and officials of the ITC. At that meeting, the consortium was apparently asked to provide guarantees that it could fully finance its programming and start-up costs, leading UKTV to believe it had passed all other hurdles.

"No one else was asked to come in at the same time," a UKTV insider said.

It is the belief of the UKTV consortium that ITC officials had recommended the award be made to the Canadian-backed group, but that the full commission was against the plan.

End of a disastrous investment: Losing London City Airport finds buyer after months of negotiations

Mowlem sighs with relief on £15.5m disposal

TOM STEVENSON
Deputy City Editor

John Mowlem, the struggling construction group, sold London City Airport yesterday for £14.5m, less than a third of the £50m the company is estimated to have poured into the loss-making but increasingly popular airport in east London.

The sale draws a line under a disastrous investment and while there was some disappointment that Mowlem had failed to achieve the airport's book value, the City was relieved that the company had finally negotiated a sale and the shares closed 9p higher at 63p.

The buyer is Dermot Desmond, former chairman of Dublin airport operator Aer Rianta, who knocked the price of the airport down after several months of negotiations. The strike price is £4.3m below the value of the airport in Mowlem's balance sheet and, together with costs associated with the sale, will result in a £5.5m charge against profits in the company's second-half figures.

The book value had already been written down and compares with an initial development cost of about £30m and losses of almost £20m in the eight years since the airport opened.

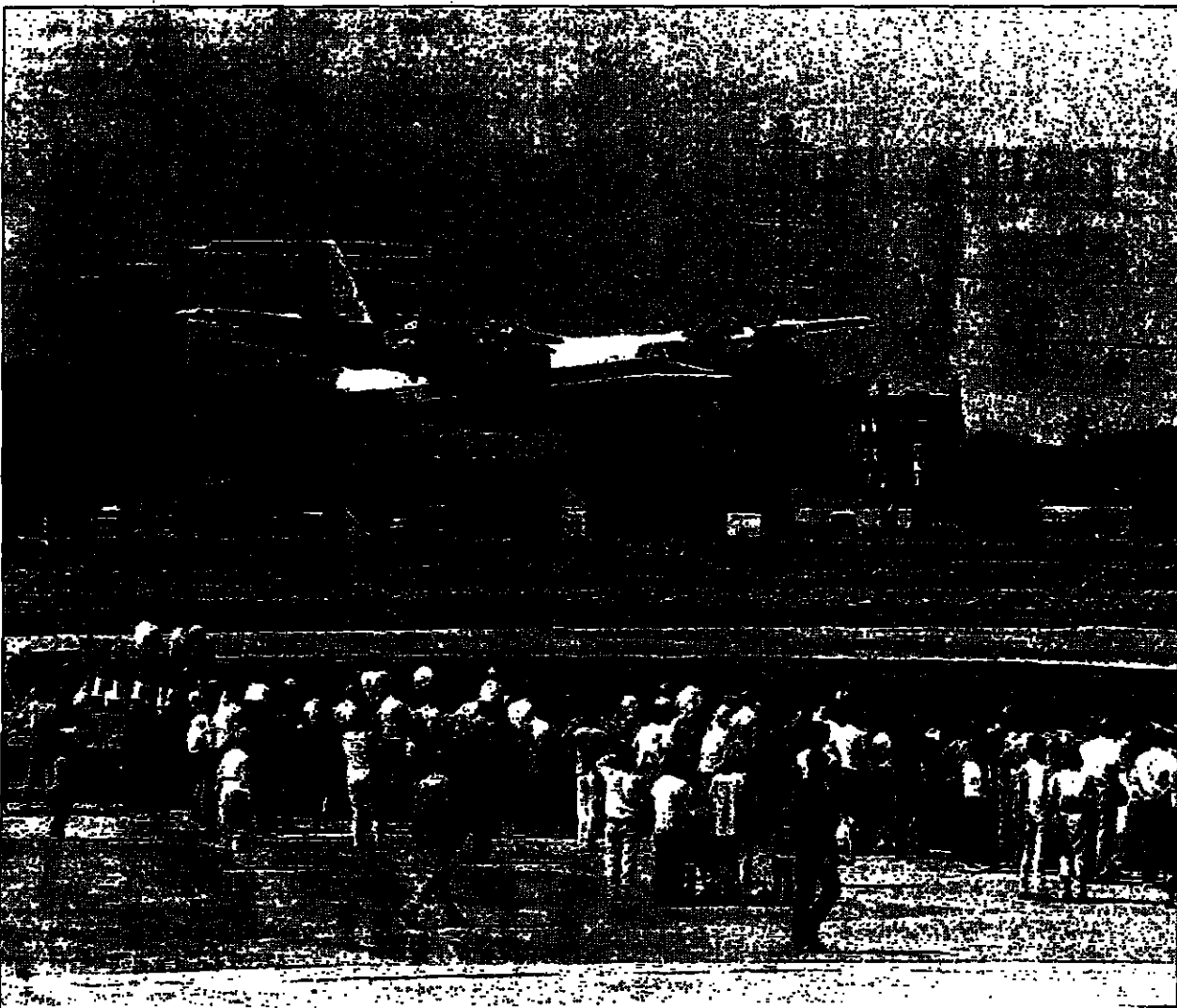
Ken Minton, Mowlem's re-

cently installed chairman, said yesterday he was "absolutely relieved" about the price achieved. "We've spent a lot of time with many people who have never even got close to putting bucks on the table. Now we've made the sale and, thank God, we have."

Mowlem, which announced a £31.8m loss in the six months to June, has been trying to sell City Airport for several years as it attempted to refocus on its core activities. Suggestions that, having carried the airport for so long, Mowlem has sold out just as it starts to take off carry little clout with Mr Minton, who believes the operation will not offer a decent return for years to come.

London City Airport was developed in 1987 as part of the planned rejuvenation of London's former docks but, like the rest of the property developments in the area, suffered in its early years from poor transport infrastructure. Passenger numbers did not start taking off until the Limehouse link bypassed the congested A13 out of London, putting the airport within a short drive of the City.

Other key developments included an extension to the runway which allowed the airport to accommodate aircraft such as the BAe 146 "whisper jet" with a vastly improved range than the



Flying into history: A Bryman Airways Dash 7 aircraft was the first to land at the airport on 31 May 1987

smaller planes that had previously used the strip.

Last year, 480,000 passengers used the airport, a 96 per cent increase over 1993. Despite the rise in volumes, however, London City remains a quick and easy alternative to the capital's other busy airports. Last year it made a loss of £2.9m after hefty interest costs, but broke even at the operating level.

Mr Desmond is chairman of Dublin-based International Underwriting, and is also a director and large investor in Pembroke Capital, a company providing specialist fi-

ancial services to the aviation industry. He was formerly the non-executive chairman of the state-owned Irish airports authority, Aer Rianta.

Mr Desmond is chairman of Dublin-based International Underwriting, and is also a director and large investor in Pembroke Capital, a company providing specialist fi-

Kevin sought Jewish backing

JOHN WILLCOCK
Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell turned to the international Jewish community for financial support after his father's death when he was being pressed by banks, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

At Robert Maxwell's funeral in Jerusalem he discussed financial arrangements with Israeli bankers and the finance minister, Yitzhak Mordechai.

In his third week in the witness box, the publisher's youngest son accused Lehman Brothers of "not giving a stuff" about his father's disappearance and behaving without common decency in demanding its money back as soon as it heard his father was missing at sea.

Kevin, who had earlier accused Lehman's, owned by American Express, of being extremely hostile to the Maxwell



Day 32

group, accused it of precipitating a crisis by issuing a default notice in breach of an agreement reached with his father in phone calls from his boat the day before he died.

He told the court that after the public announcement of his father's disappearance but before the announcement of his death, Lehman's was on the phone asking for its money.

"I recall asking them on the grounds of humanity to wait un-

til morning – we didn't know if my father was lost to be recovered or lost to be found dead. I could not understand what damage would happen to them if they waited a few hours. I did express my disbelief at their conduct in the aftermath and with the knowledge of what I was facing."

Kevin said the Maxwell companies were long-standing customers and Lehman's had been paid millions of dollars in fees, in 1991, and he asked what was the haste. "They said they were a large business with responsibility to the shareholders and wanted their money and they couldn't give a stuff about my father. I remember being absolutely shocked just on the basis of common decency."

Later Kevin described how he was comforted both personally and in a business sense from many condolence letters including one from Baroness Thatcher

or which he read out in court. The former prime minister had written to his mother on House of Commons notepaper saying: "Denis and I grieve for you and your family in the terrible tragedy and shock you have suffered. Your own dignity and strength in sorrow have demonstrated so powerfully the unity and supreme importance of a united family."

Kevin, his brother, Ian, and Larry Trachtenberg deny conspiracy to defraud the pension funds by misusing shares. Yesterday the jury sent a note asking for an estimate of when the trial is due to end, but were told by Lord Justice Phillips it was not possible to give an accurate estimate.

The trial has lasted 92 days of which the jury has been presented with evidence on 88, and legal argument has accounted for four.

Ofwat warning on dividend payouts

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

Ofwat, the water industry watchdog, has warned companies against large increases in dividend payouts unless they can prove they are due to unexpected efficiency gains. Ian Byatt, director general of Ofwat, said that, in future, companies should explain dividend policies to customers to improve understanding of the industry.

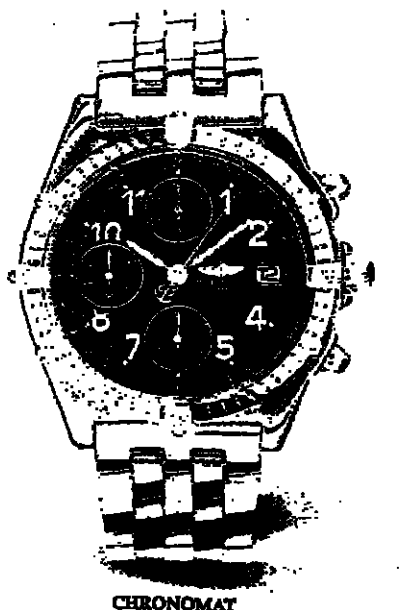
Mr Byatt also warned that while companies have spent £15bn on capital investment over the last five years, spending is now in a trough. "I am concerned less companies may lose their momentum ... the drought has shown the need to provide a more reliable service; this should be done without any

increase in prices," he said. The statement increases the pressure on the industry, which has been widely attacked for failing to invest enough in measures to stop leakage from the water pipes – in some cases as much as 25 per cent.

Mr Byatt's comments come in Ofwat's latest report on the financial performance and investment in the sector. It shows that over the five years to 1994/95, the sector borrowed £3.5bn but that, at present, they are generating enough cash to meet investment needs.

Mr Byatt said that the new price controls which came into effect in April aim to ensure that future profits grow at a "modest rate". Since privatisation, profits have increased by almost 41 per cent in real terms.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Firmer look to biotech fledglings

The fledgling biotechnology sector of the stock market has had a storming rise this year, outperforming the already healthy increase of major drug groups. But for most of the two to three years since the majority of the companies came to market, investment in the sector has been seen as something of a casino by investors – and with good reason.

British Biotech is a case in point. Seen as one of the more serious players, with a market capitalisation now well over £400m, it saw its share price plunge from 590p to 428p in February after it revealed problems with clinical trials of its then most promising drug, the anti-cancer compound batimastat. Since then the shares have soared close to 900p.

This roller-coaster ride is typical of the sector, but there are signs that it is moving onto a somewhat firmer footing, with institutions showing more serious interest in investing and the product portfolio edging towards commercial exploitation.

Last Friday's news that Chiroscience had become the first of the new biotech companies to win regulatory approval – for its painkiller dexketoprofen – was something of a milestone in this respect. The decision does not necessarily mean that other companies' products will be similarly blessed by the authorities, but it does show that the industry has the potential to move from the unquantifiable "blue sky" research stage to the creation of products that have the capacity to generate sales.

British Biotech's recovery from the February debacle is also testimony to its diversification strategy. Far from proving fatal, it had been the group's only product, batimastat's starring role has now been taken by a new oral anti-cancer drug, BB-2516. Indeed, the end of this month should see the release of data on trials of BB-2516, which could have a big effect on the share price.

Given the current level of the shares, British Bio's immediate financing needs should be assured by warrants exercisable at 525p over the turn of the year, which will raise £47.5m.

Celltech, another of the better-regarded members of the sector, has also been steadily building a decent development portfolio, ranging from asthma to inflammatory bowel disorders. It has also been one of the most successful at cutting the risks associated with big groups like Zeneca and Roche.

Even Scotia, the largest of the pack and a producer of evening primrose oil, has fought off its fringe image, with the

market now getting excited about its anti-cancer compounds. But investors should remember that profits from most of these companies are unlikely to emerge much before the next century. It would be strange if, before then, some of them did not fall by the wayside.

Challenge faces new Rugby boss

Rugby's shares, up 1p to 107p, were unfazed by the sad news that the cement group's managing director, Peter Carr, is to retire early at the end of December. Although he is recovering well from the stroke he suffered in September Mr Carr has decided to bring forward his departure.

With a reputation for being a no-nonsense northerner, who travels second-class to keep costs down, he built up a good following in the City. But the equanimity with which the shares greeted the news was telling – some analysts believe a change at the top could breathe the much-needed life into a well-run but strategically timid group.

Whoever takes over the top job – and it is not apparent that a suitable can-

didate exists inside Rugby – does so at a challenging time. Recent interim figures confirmed the problems afflicting all the company's activities – cement, joinery and steel wire. Underlying operating profits were 10 per cent down in the first half and earnings per share slipped thanks to the shares issued last year to fund acquisitions and a rising tax charge.

Rugby has arguably been a little complacent, sitting on its leading position in joinery, for example, and it is now paying the price.

Its takeover record has also raised eyebrows, with some claiming the acquisition of Buzl, the US building materials supplier, two years into the American recovery, was badly mistimed.

Potentially, there is plenty of value in Rugby despite the dire state of the markets it operates in. Once its current heavy capital expenditure programme is completed in a couple of years, it will become highly cash-generative, which coupled with new management nodes well for earnings recovery if the downturn proves to be the blip the optimists are counting on.

On a prospective price/earnings ratio of 12 on the basis of 335m profits next year, up from a forecast £77m this year, the shares are not obviously

cheap. But having fallen so sharply over the past 18 months, down from 181p in January 1994, on a historically cheap multiple of sales and generating an impressive return on capital, the downside appears very limited.

JXK Oil still a play for brave

Shares in JXK Oil & Gas have gone nowhere since July's flotation. Having soared to a peak of 226p soon after the offer, they have come back to the 190p issue price after yesterday's 1p rise.

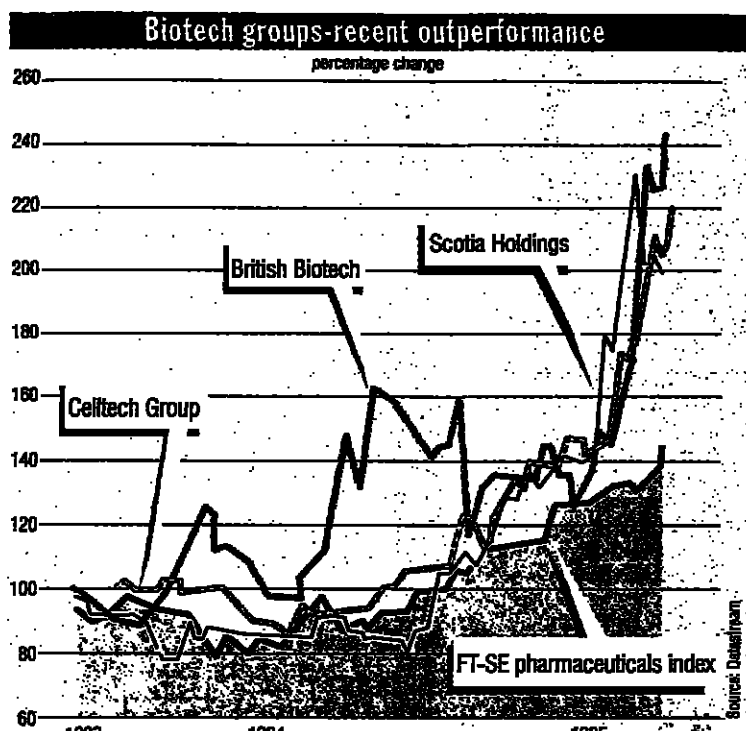
The performance probably says more about investors' initial enthusiasm for the oil company – the offer was twice subscribed – than any change in the fundamentals. Apart from news that an exploration well in the Black Sea had been plugged and abandoned, with no news on the results being released, there has been precious little to report.

However, at least as important for an oil explorer searching in the politically unstable south-western corner of the old USSR, there has been no bad news, either. Yesterday's half-time report showed pre-tax losses mounted from £67,000 to £484,000 in the half-year to June. The figures are said to be in line with internal projections, but are in any case largely meaningless as the company has only just started to trade properly.

Around 5,000 barrels of oil and gas are flowing commercially from Potava, a field around 350 kilometres south-east of Kiev. That should build to 22,000 barrels a day after further development by the end of next year and provide the principal source of cash-flow for JXK.

In the meantime, the money will help finance the re-entry to an old well in Western Georgia, abandoned in April. But most interest will centre on tests of an appraisal well on the Shumits Umani field to be carried out over the next few weeks. The company believes this field could hold significant reserves. The results will help determine whether Shell takes up an, in effect, 40 per cent stake in certain of the JXK interests in the region, which would help boost sentiment.

Even if Shell does come aboard, and despite the presence on the board of Bob Horton, the former BP chairman and chief executive, the shares remain highly speculative.



Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Putting the beef in the special relationship



Burger king: Lord Sheppard will accept his award tonight

Grand Metropolitan is recognised for its significant investment in the American diet. Tonight, at the Pierre in New York, The Rt Hon Lord Sheppard, Grand Met's chairman, will accept a British-American Chamber of Commerce award for his "outstanding contribution" to the economic relationship between the UK and US.

At first glance this looks like a big thank you for beefing up Burger King. With its US hamburger and Pillsbury operations dispensing everything from grilled meat to canned sweetcorn, the judges of the inaugural Transatlantic Business Awards have displayed a common touch. The US winner is Alex Trotman, chief executive of the ubiquitous Ford Motor Company.

However, the smaller company awards demonstrate an altogether more scientific approach. The British winner is Bill Castell and Amersham International for "innovative application of technology". The US winner is the hi-tech Gartner Group.

Barry Dale's £1.2bn bid for Littlewoods has come as a welcome breath of fresh air for two of the City's better known spin doctors. The meters are now running at Alan Parker's Brunswick agency (Littlewoods) and Lowe Bell Financial, Sir Tim Bell's outfit, which is representing the former Littlewoods chief executive.

All the signs are that this could be a lucrative – I'm sorry, lengthy – battle, pitting together two old adversaries. For Lowe Bell there is the

So no wholesale sackings of the Baring ancestry in the move to London Wall over the weekend. Some 40 Pickford removal trucks later and the portraits of great-grandfather Baring and his subsequent issue (Joins not bonds) have been safely installed in the new headquarters. Not a Rembrandt or Van Gogh in sight.

Indeed, Baring's new Dutch owners have been given a sharp lesson in City tradition. Our man in the stolen Pickfords uniform reports the new dining rooms to be "more than adequate and certainly up to City standards." Never let a £1bn loss get in the way of a good lunch.

needed to exercise the humiliation of the Hanson affair. Scholars of the persuasion business will recall the stiff letter from the Huddersfield peer to Sir Tim during the abortive ICI bid, complaining that Mr Parker "shows himself to be running circles around us".

Not all has been lost in the demolition of the corporate communications department at Redland, builders merchants to a grateful nation. The 45,000 photographic images which make up the firm's library have been discovered intact and will be preserved for posterity.

You might think that 45,000 photos of bricks is too much of a good thing. But the Redland collection has been painstakingly built over more than 20 years and represents the definitive

evolution of the brick. "There are pictures of bricks, clay tiles, aggregates and even various stages of the manufacturing process," explains Brian Stapely, Redland's photographer of two decades. "They are used by the salesmen. But once you have taken them it's difficult to get rid of them."

While Mr Stapely's views might not be universally held, the collection does contain something for every taste. "We have even have shots of wild geese flying over building sites," he reflects.

The tragic death last Tuesday of Simon Mathieson, the up-and-coming Goldman Sachs man, has come as a shock to friends and colleagues. The 28-year-old equities salesman on the US desk specialised in selling to Scotland and had taken to commuting to Glasgow on his motorbike. He died last Tuesday in an accident on the M40, leaving his widow, Abigail. The two met at the investment bank and had been married for five months.

There will be a memorial service for Mr Mathieson this Friday at Hindland Parish Church, Clydesbank, Glasgow at 2.30pm.

Classic mid-cycle pause holds dangers for Clarke

At some stage every economic recovery falters; growth slows; the government of the day gets worried; the opposition fees; and pundits proffer their usual contradictory advice. We are, of course, at that stage now – and we are at it just before the Budget. There is, therefore, a fine opportunity for the Chancellor to move policy in quite the wrong direction, and if he were to do so that, too, would be in line with past experience.

Since the beginning of 1993, it has been slow, quick, slow; we had one year of steady growth, one of sizzling growth, and we are now into the third year of rather slower growth. Since just about every forecaster underestimated the rate of growth last year, and just about everyone over-estimated it this year, no one feels overly confident now. Last year people underestimated overall growth largely because they did not spot the growth of exports, particularly to continental Europe; this year they have over-estimated mainly because they did not see the extent to which consumers would trim their spending in the face of increased taxation.

You can see the way in which consumption has not benefited fully from the expansion in the economy by looking at the chart. (The forecasts shown here come from Charterhouse, chosen because it is rather more cautious about growth this

year, and more optimistic next than the consensus.) In 1993 consumption ran ahead of growth of GDP, leading the economy out of recession, but last year and this it has been running well behind. Maybe you can explain some of this in terms of the new insecurity that everyone, in jobs or out, seems to feel. But you can equally explain it simply by pointing to the way taxpayers have been hit over the head.

This raises an important question for next year. We know that there will not be any tax increases in the Budget. The

The foreign exchanges think the Chancellor is about to err

reasonable working assumption is that there will be some modest net tax cuts (of which more in a moment). It is, therefore, quite plausible that consumption will rise reasonably briskly next year. A recovery started by consumers, and then subsequently sustained by exports, will then be supported again by consumers.

You can embellish this story a little by expecting a recovery in exports next year, with the US still growing strongly, some re-



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

covery from weak growth on the Continent, at last some growth from Japan, and continued rapid growth (though from a small base) in many of the variety of "emerging" economies. Investment will probably be quite good (Charterhouse thinks it will be very strong).

The main cloud is in stock-building, or rather the continued running down of stocks. This has been happening very sharply in continental Europe this year as manufacturers over-estimated the growth of demand last year and have had to slice back. But all in all, you can make a very good case for expecting good growth next year.

Conclusion? We are in the classic mid-cycle pause. This is not what many industrialists feel, for they are quite worried by the soft demand they see for their products and services. It is not what politicians feel, for they are beset by worried people in their constituencies. And it is not, to judge by their behaviour, what most consumers feel for they are still very cautious in their spending habits. But it is probably right.

If it is, what are the implications for the Chancellor? There

has been an undercurrent of concern during the last month or so, which has surfaced to some extent in the newspapers, that the Chancellor will "give away" too much: that he is about to make a fiscal error by stoking up consumption at just the moment that it was going to bounce back anyway. I really think that is wrong. I think he is in serious danger of making an error, but a different one. Let's assume that there are indeed £2bn of net tax cuts, maybe a little more. That real-

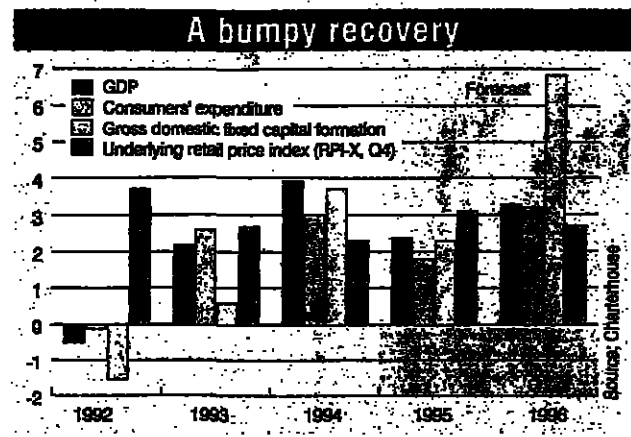
ly is not a big enough number to matter. Take the PSBR down by £10bn – the reduction that actually occurred between 1993/94 and 1994/95 – and people feel it. But a couple of billion is too small a number to have any real impact. True, it is possible to manipulate public spending so that one or other interest group can be made to feel better. Perhaps, too, a budget can affect the mood of people and influence their behaviour that way. But unless the Chancellor heads right outside the span of expected measures, there will be no fiscal mistake next month.

There might, on the other hand, be a monetary mistake. The lags in monetary policy are very long. The Chancellor appears to have got away with his

resistance to that rise in base rates that the Bank of England wanted, because world interest rates came off shortly afterwards. The Bank has subsequently dropped the pressure for an early rise. It is quite possible, assuming that the Budget is reasonably well-regarded by the markets, that, come the spring, it will even be possible to engineer one small cut in base rates. The inflation story will appear quite good. The retail price index, both at a headline level and at the underlying rate, will be flattered by electricity price rebates, while wage pressures have been curbed (at least in the private sector) by the slowing of growth this year. And of course lower interest rates would give specific help to the housing sector, something that particularly concerns the present government.

But against this should be set two dangers. One is that consumers will indeed become much more confident next year – that the pause now will be reflected in a sharper jump come the spring. The other is that monetary policy may now be more loose than, say, the housing market or yesterday's money figures suggest – the weak sterling is signalling amber.

The foreign exchanges think that the Chancellor is about to make a mistake, and while they are a deeply unreliable witness, they are worth attention none the less.



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	800,000,000		507,528,880

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31st October, 1995

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C&G variable base rates will be reduced by 0.37% per annum from 1 November 1995.

For loans in our Annual Instalment Review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 1996.

Details of the change have been sent to customers who require written notice under the terms of their mortgage.

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NFC workers lose double voting rights

RUSSELL HOTTEN

A chapter in the history of NFC closed yesterday when employee shareholders lost the double voting rights they had enjoyed since the historic flotation of the transport company.

NFC, Britain's largest freight and haulage group, was also one of the country's biggest employee-owned companies and a symbol to many who believed in worker participation.

The extra voting powers were given to protect employees; but the number of staff shareholders has fallen below 10 per cent due to the selling of shares, redundancies and natural wastage.

Under NFC's articles of association, double voting rights lapse six months after the limit is breached, and yesterday

marked the first day of the new voting structure.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman, said: "NFC now has a completely conventional voting structure and one that is appropriate to our time."

The current number of staff shareholders is about 18,000, compared with a peak 28,000. NFC was privatised by an employee buyout in 1982 and floated three years later. In recent years, the company has seen a power struggle between the old guard and those who thought NFC needed an injection of new blood to modernise its operations.

A decline in profits led to bitter in-fighting about the way forward, and after six months of uncertainty Gerry Murphy took over as chief executive earlier this year.

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market report/shares

Thames Water move on power industry rumoured

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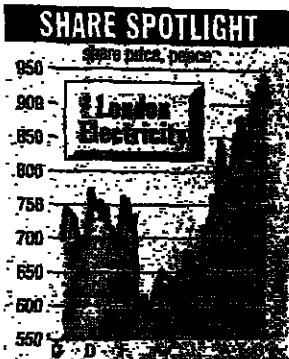
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Thames Water is thought to be near to planning into the takeover of the regional electricity companies.

Rumours circulated that it was about to descend on London Electricity, although some wondered whether Seaboard could be the attraction.

Today Thames, the biggest water utility, is due to produce its interim figures. Around £164m is likely, against £150.9m.

Some observers believe that Thames may accompany what will be uninspiring results with a takeover splash.

It could be expected to offer around 1.25p for London Electricity against a 920p close up 18p. The shares finished 17.5p below their peak.

But Thames may decide to wait until North West Water's controversial offer for the North-west electricity supplier obtains Whitehall clearance. The

all-clear is expected later this week.

Many of the advantages NWL expects to realise through Norweb could also apply to Thames and London Electricity, although putting the capital's water and power supply under one command would produce political uproar.

Cost savings could emerge through joint headquarters and the sharing of meter readings, billing and customer care.

Thames has not covered itself in glory with its diversification moves. Owning a strong performer like London Electricity would certainly add sparkle to its non-water operations. But any Thames strike could prompt a counter strike with the linking US utilities spurred into action.

Seaboard, the outsider, edged forward 3p to 519p and Thames firmed to 521p.

Away from the electrical sparks the stock market expe-



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN
Stock market reporter
of the year

perienced a woundingly quiet session. Helped by New York, the FT-SE 100 index rose 12.1 points to 3,510 after touching 3,519.7. But turnover was miserably low for an allegedly normal day. To underline the lack of interest much of the activity was in penny stocks.

Black & Edgington, the marquee group which former Medeva man Ian Gorrin-Smith intends to turn into a drug power, attracted an 18.8 million turnover with the price firming 0.25p to 5.75p.

Pacific Media held at 1p, with 12.3 million going through and Queensborough, a leisure group run by Kevin Leech (of ML Laboratories fame) stuck

at 1.25p as nearly 11 million shares were printed.

The three companies are each thought to be near to clinching significant deals, with B&E's long-expected drugs move already behind schedule.

Among blue chips Sears, the retailing group, accounted for a near-12 million turnover, with talk of some chunky lines replaced.

Funding levels have been indifferent for too long and anxiety is growing that the market will soon face another heavy round of redundancies.

Scholl, the footwear group which last week saw off a determined shareholder revolt, stepped forward 6p to 220p as

rumours strengthened that French beauty group L'Oréal would team up with Gillette of the US to mount a bid.

L'Oréal refused to comment. It was suggested that the bidders would use the 15 per cent shareholding put together by the defeated rebels as a platform for a strike.

Standard Chartered, the banking group, was another to reflect takeover hopes and, with the help of some favourable analyst comments, rose 10p to 510p. Reports of newspaper sales lifted United News & Media 5p to 516p.

Reuters, the information group, rose 19p to 576p, benefiting from a Merrill Lynch buy note and talk of an investment conference. CMAI, which met Kleinwort Benson, firmed to 517p and Lucas Industries reached 187p ahead of a meeting with analysts today.

J Sainsbury, up 11.5p to 423.5p, was helped along by a

Société Générale Strauss Turb built buy recommendation: results are due tomorrow. Kwik Save also won support from SGST ahead of Thursday's figures, gaining 21p to 700p.

Among insurers Britannic put on 24p to 714p, with bid hopes mingling with a buy recommendation. Legal & General put on 8p to 670p.

John Goveit, the fund manager, fell 26p to 253p on the departure of one of its top-performing US fund managers. There are worries that the defection could hinder the sale of its fund management side. BCE, the computer games group, rose 2.5p to a 24.75p peak on talk of bid action and what was believed to be a stock shortage.

Chubb, the security group, rose 13p to 330p.

Frost, the petrol retailer, advanced 12p to 223p on Credit Lyonnais Laing support and the all-clear for its LRG petrol.

□Bakyrchik Gold jumped 30p to 183p after two businessmen, Robert Friedland and Johannes Kojak, decided to pump nearly £22m into the struggling group developing a mine in the former Soviet Union. They are buying shares at 150p with options at 200p-220p. The company has run into technical difficulties. Some, however, wonder whether the new cash will be enough to provide the answer to its problems. At one time the shares touched 190p yesterday. They were floated two years ago at 120p, quickly hitting a peak of 370p.

□The legal row between Simon Engineering and struggling Butte Mining rumbles on, with Butte filing High Court claims for more than £100m. Simon says Butte's actions are "misconceived". Butte, little more than a litigation play, held at 1.75p.

BANKS, MERCHANT

Barclays	120.00	120.00
HSBC	110.00	110.00
London	100.00	100.00
Midland	90.00	90.00
NatWest	80.00	80.00
Paragon	70.00	70.00
Prudential	60.00	60.00
TSB	50.00	50.00
Yorkshire	40.00	40.00

BANKS, RETAIL

Bank of Scotland	100.00	100.00
Bank of Ireland	90.00	90.00
Bank of Wales	80.00	80.00
Bank of Cyprus	70.00	70.00
Bank of Greece	60.00	60.00
Bank of Italy	50.00	50.00
Bank of Spain	40.00	40.00
Bank of France	30.00	30.00
Bank of Germany	20.00	20.00
Bank of Japan	10.00	10.00

BREWERIES

Beck's	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	90.00	90.00
Heineken	80.00	80.00
Kaiser Brewery	70.00	70.00
Miller Brewing	60.00	60.00
Pilsener	50.00	50.00
Stout	40.00	40.00
Townsend	30.00	30.00
Watson	20.00	20.00
Woolley	10.00	10.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Anglo	100.00	100.00
Bechtel	90.00	90.00
Booth	80.00	80.00
Brace	70.00	70.00
Chambers	60.00	60.00
Clark	50.00	50.00
Cooper	40.00	40.00
Davies	30.00	30.00
Ellis	20.00	20.00
Evans	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

British	100.00	100.00
Central	90.00	90.00
Edinburgh	80.00	80.00
Electricity	70.00	70.00
Energy	60.00	60.00
Gas	50.00	50.00
Hydro	40.00	40.00
Nuclear	30.00	30.00
Power	20.00	20.00
Renewable	10.00	10.00

ELECTRONICS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

Anglo	100.00	100.00
Bechtel	90.00	90.00
Booth	80.00	80.00
Brace	70.00	70.00
Chambers	60.00	60.00
Clark	50.00	50.00
Cooper	40.00	40.00
Davies	30.00	30.00
Ellis	20.00	20.00
Evans	10.00	10.00

CHEMICALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
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Sony	10.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

CHEMICALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

INSURANCE

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

INTERNATIONALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

ELECTRONICS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

INSURANCE

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

INTERNATIONALS

Amstrad	100.00	100.00
Apple	90.00	90.00
Atari	80.00	80.00
Commodore	70.00	70.00
IBM	60.00	60.00
Intel	50.00	50.00
Microsoft	40.00	40.00
Nintendo	30.00	30.00
Oracle	20.00	20.00
Sony	10.00	10.00

604	White Ferry	100.00	+0.2	-4460
604	White Ferry	20.00	+0.2	-4548

VESTIMENT COMPANIES				
354	Harris Inc	200.00	+0.1	-4270
354	Harris Inc	20.00	+0.1	-2114
186	Gay and Sons	300.00	+1.0	-2428
304	Robinson	40.00	+1.0	-3940
304	Robinson	40.00	+1.0	-3940
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304	Robinson			

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

STERLING			DOLLAR			C-MARKS
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.6700	12-10	32-39	7.0000	12-15	33-48
Canada	2.1483	8-11	101-65	1.4000	12-15	33-48
France	9.3149	12-12	146-136	1.4008	20-20	40-40
Germany	3.3909	35-13	35-17	4.8778	15-15	105-157
Italy	36.0142	10-10	101-65	1.4000	40-43	142-143
Japan	161.10	10-10	321-254	1.0100	40-15	72-78
UK	1.0000	11-7	30-45	1.3072	40-15	72-78
ECU	1.2006	11-7	30-45	1.3072	40-15	72-78
Belgium	46.840	12-0	31-10	1.4423	25-25	3.7878
Denmark	1.3608	10-10	105-62	1.4423	25-25	3.7878
Netherlands	2.9384	8-11	176-182	1.5744	25-25	3.7878
Ireland	0.8721	10-8	134-135	1.5744	25-25	3.7878
Spain	166.64	10-10	131-131	0.8710	85-80	440-440
Switzerland	152.39	8-8	139-149	0.8710	85-80	440-440
Sweden	10.440	18-21	121-121	1.1394	115-75	100-80
Switzerland	1.7653	7-9	210-231	1.1394	125-34	110-107
Australia	2.0098	10-17	33-38	0.7006	10-15	33-38
Hong Kong	12.1840	10-10	75-75	0.7006	10-15	33-38
New Zealand	2.3857	10-11	106-21	0.8427	7-17	40-40
South Africa	8.9495	8-8	75-67	0.8427	7-17	40-40
Spain	166.64	10-10	131-131	0.8710	85-80	440-440
Sweden	10.440	18-21	121-121	1.1394	115-75	100-80
Switzerland	1.7653	7-9	210-231	1.1394	125-34	110-107

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Change
Argentina	1,5775	3,0743	Nigeria	138,0008	61.75
Australia	16,5278	0,8859	Poland	0,60851	0,3289
Canada	1,51518	0,1066	Portugal	40,7790	24.18
Chile	18,0817	0,098	Philippines	50,3324	38.85
Egypt	3,5306	3,9026	Portugal	235,36	145.01
Finland	8,6788	4,2370	Romania	3,7208	3,9269
France	16,5278	1,0340	Russia	7108.79	4569
Germany	305.15	\$91.01	South Africa	3,7475	3,9470
Greece	305.15	\$4.79	Taiwan	92.56	92.56
India	66,9891	0,09995	USA	5,7678	5,6710
Indonesia	0,47191				

Source: Reuters news service. Prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Pound sterling and Swiss franc prices are high and low of a previous day. Prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Pound sterling, Hong Kong dollar, New Zealand dollar, Australian dollar, and Canadian dollar are listed in U.S. dollars.

TOURIST RATES

\$ Bn	\$ Bn	\$ Bn	\$ Bn
Australia (France)	5,010	France (Francs)	7,400
Austria (Schillings)	15,000	Germany (DM)	2,160
Belgium (Francs)	14,000	Greece (Drachmas)	367,000
Canada (Dollars)	2,000	Hong Kong (Dollars)	12,000
Cyprus (Pounds)	0,880	India (Rupees)	0,940
Denmark (Kroner)	8,920	Italy (Lira)	240,000
Holland (Gulden)	5,300	Japan (Yen)	150,000
Italy (Lira)	6,800	Malta (Lira)	0,40
Japan (Yen)	150,000	New Zealand (Dollars)	3,920
Malta (Lira)	0,40	Norway (Kroner)	9,800
New Zealand (Dollars)	3,920	Portugal (Escudos)	228,000
Norway (Kroner)	9,800	Spain (Pesetas)	185,000
Portugal (Escudos)	228,000	Sweden (Kronor)	16,800
Spain (Pesetas)	185,000	Switzerland (Francs)	17,500
Sweden (Kronor)	16,800	Taiwan (New Dollars)	767,000
Switzerland (Francs)	17,500	Turkey (Lira)	1,540
Taiwan (New Dollars)	767,000	United States (Dollars)	1,540
Turkey (Lira)	1,540		
United States (Dollars)	1,540		

INTEREST RATES

UK Base	6.75%	Serresco Discount	3.50%	US Prime	8.75%	Japan Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	5.50%	Discount	6.25%	Belgium Discount	
Intervention	5.00%	Spain		Per Farids	5.00%	Switzerland	3.50%
Re-discount		Prime	8.00%	Spells		Canada	4.05%
Re-discount	9.00%	Discount	7.65%	10-Day Rapo	8.25%	Switzerland Discount	
Medium-term		Discount		Swedish		Discount	2.00%
Advances	3.70%	Discount	5.00%	Rapo (Ave)	8.91%	Lombard	4.00%

BOND YIELDS

Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	5.9%	7.44	8.2%	9.02	Netherlands	5.1	7.76**	6.51	
US	5.9%	5.92	6.04	6.04	Spain	12.9%	10.51	10.1	10.2
Japan	6.4%	1.58	4.6%	6.83	Belgium	10.5%	11.35	10.5%	11.86
Australia	7%	1.16	4.7%	2.67	Italy	11.5	8.02	5.6%	5.98
Germany	7%	3.36	7.6%	9.88	Sweden	11%	8.75	8%	9.19
France	7%	6.59	7.6%	7.32	ECU	9.9%	5.96	7.74**	7.67

*Yields calculated on Euro basis **Gross net basis

MONEY MARKET RATES

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5% 7	5% 6	5% 6	5% 6	5% 6	5%
Swelling CD's						
Local Authority Dept	5% 7	5% 6	5% 6	5% 6	5% 6	5%
Discount Market Dept	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Treasury Bills (90yr)			5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60
Dollar Cds			5.60	5.60	5.60	5.60
1 Year Local Dep			5%	5%	5%	5%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low	traded	Est/Cons Interest	Open
Long Dec	Dec 99	106.05	106.12	106.02	25382	102919
Short Dec	Dec 99	98.34	98.34	98.32	82696	82727
ALB 99	Dec 99	124.07	124.07	124.07	2953	
ALB 99	Dec 99	105.05	105.05	105.05	34476	49005
3M 99	Dec 99	93.34	93.37	93.30	9478	84185
3M 99	Dec 99	93.55	93.48	93.43	10017	87300
3M 99	Dec 99	94.25				110
2M 99	Dec 99	95.98	95.93	95.97	8400	138292
2M 99	Dec 99	95.11	95.13	95.10	6779	3859
E.C.V.	Dec 99	94.32	94.32	94.34	822	1458
1M 99	Dec 99	94.49	94.55	94.46	8700	16829
1M 99	Dec 99	97.07	97.03	97.05	2042	25957
1M 99	Dec 99	93.99	94.01	93.99	8093	8093
1M 99	Dec 99	98.80				2537

LIFE FT-SE INDEX OPTION

Settlement price: 3311.0	closing offer price			Call/Put	
					Total/Vote
March	3450	3500	3550	3600	
November	86/21	90/32	27/05	12/103	
December	120/48	89/08	61/90	38/120	--
January	248/84	116/84	90/108	68/138	
February	186/74	138/94	110/118	88/147	--

COMMODITIES

Aluminum						LME Stocks		PM Pkz. Jan.	
Aluminum	Cash	1800	Vol	1800	Vol				
Alu HG	1628.00	1425.00	491.67	153.975	253				
Alu	1380.00	1250.00	48.94	48.94	240				
Copper A	2759.00	2627.74	884.11	100.950	240				
Lead	880.00	876.78	294.14	184.875	8525				
Nickel	220.00	215.00	10.00	10.00	240				
Zn	820.00	807.00	52.95	14.025	385				
Tin	660.00	1006.08	27.71	73.885	3575				
Settlements/contract volume						Settlements & change in volume		Settlements & change in volume	
1,675 1,675 31.25 31.25						1,675 1,675 31.25 31.25		1,675 1,675 31.25 31.25	
Cocoa						Coffee		Potatoes	
LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE	
Dec	262	Jan	238	Mar	184.00	Jan	11.50	Jan	11.50
Mar	221	Jul	207	Mar	203.00	Jan	11.75	Jan	11.75
Mar	5,479	Vol	467	Vol	78	Vol	118.5	Vol	118.5
White Sugar						Raw Sugar		Freight	
LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE	
Dec	248.00	Jan	12.35	Oct	1990	Jan	121.40	Jan	121.40
Mar	205.00	Mar	19.30	Nov	1982	Jan	124.70	Jan	124.70
Mar	225.00	Vol	5.00	Vol	11.00	Jan	118.5	Jan	118.5
Wheat						Wheat		Wheat	
LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE	
Dec	248.00	Jan	12.35	Oct	1990	Jan	121.40	Jan	121.40
Mar	205.00	Mar	19.30	Nov	1982	Jan	124.70	Jan	124.70
Mar	225.00	Vol	5.00	Vol	11.00	Jan	118.5	Jan	118.5
Corn						Corn		Corn	
LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE		LCE	
Dec	248.00	Jan	12.35	Oct	1990	Jan	121.40	Jan	121.40
Mar	205.00	Mar	19.30	Nov	1982	Jan	124.70	Jan	124.70
Mar	225.00	Vol	5.00	Vol	11.00	Jan	118.5	Jan	118.5

Source: Commodity Market Services

[illegible]

LARGEST 100 INSURANCE FUNDS

[illegible]

UNIT TRUSTS GUIDE

tax dividend
exit charge applies
when units are sold
formerly "offer"
formerly "bid"
Non SIB recognized funds

صبرنا من الامل

Dishing up a racing feast at home

Anyone who has ever sworn never to visit a betting shop again will be pleased to hear that, from next Monday, you may not need to.

At 11pm, The Racing Channel, available to Sky subscribers with a satellite dish, will start broadcasting two entire meetings each afternoon, not to mention news, features and recordings of the previous day's racing. Idea, just install a satellite dish, a copy of the Life to the full and here someone to stand in the corner to curse and cough, and suddenly your living room could be the local Ladbrokes.

It promises to be a remarkable new service, not least because it will be Britain's first television channel dedicated to a single sport.

Greg Wood on Britain's first television channel dedicated to a single sport

The Racing Channel will cost £19.95 per month, or just under £5 a week, a charge which has been carefully chosen to match the price of a daily racing newspaper.

"Our market research showed that five per cent of Sky's viewers would be interested or very interested in subscribing to a channel at that price," George Irvine, Sky's programme controller, said yesterday. "We are hoping to have 30,000 viewers in our first year, and 100,000 by year three."

Anyone who currently receives Sky's multi-channel or Sport package via satellite will be able to sign up to The Racing Channel in little more than 30 seconds, with a single phone call to the subscriptions centre. Unfortunately for Britain's one million subscribers to cable television, however, cable suppliers are at present reluctant to provide the new channel.

This reluctance seems strange, particularly in view of the fact that live racing every afternoon should generate plenty of business via cable-supplied phone lines as punters make contact with their bookmakers. The only option for cable customers seems to be to pester their

suppliers until The Racing Channel is made available.

Punters who succeed in getting hooked up will receive a five-hour service, from 11am to 4pm, between November and April, with an extension until 7pm from May, often followed, of course, by live evening racing on the main Sky Sports channel.

"The first hour will be the previous day's racing," Irvine said, "followed by a live horse racing programme, which will be studio-based but also go live to the course for chat and interviews and so on."

"Then we go live to the racing, and coverage will differ somewhat from what you see on BBC1 or Channel 4. From the stalls to the line will be SIS coverage, but before the race we will put more emphasis on the areas which punters don't feel they get enough of, which is paddock commentaries and a more in-depth look at them going down, as well as video form-guides. There will be opportunities for interviews with owners and trainers and everybody else, but our research suggests people want to see more of the horses."

Less talk, more horses - it is not a formula which either of the terrestrial channels would recognise. If The Racing Channel can point the way towards racing coverage which concentrates on the action rather than the presenters' personalities, £5 a week is surely the bargain of the decade.

Pearl pair string out success

Those punters who followed the in-form Ridgewood Pearl team of John Oxx and John Murtagh from Belmont Park on Saturday to Leopardstown's Bank Holiday meeting yesterday will not have been disappointed with their performance - the pair recorded a four-timer - but will have been frustrated if they had hoped to lighten bookies' satchels, writes John Cobb.

For once, the layers were refusing to take punters' cash in a gesture of protest at the opening at the track of a betting shop that they fear will do lasting damage to their profit margins.

Those that backed Ireland's new heroes with the Tote were soon rewarded when they scooped both divisions of the juvenile maiden with Key, Chango and Western Seas and followed up with a double in the Stakes races with Sheikh Mohammed's Aylesbury and the Aga Khan's

Hassiniya. The latter's success in the Rigo Stakes had a sad accompaniment when her market rival, Ballykett Nancy, the winner of six Listed contests for the Jim Bolger stable, injured her back and had to be put down.

The wistfully assured Murtagh of his first jockeys' championship, enabling him to improve on his one-winner lead to push five clear of the long-time leader, Christy Roche.

Oxx, meanwhile, reinforced his reputation for dedication to his job of an opportunity to party. Eschewing the New York celebrations of Ridgewood Pearl's owner, Sean Coughlan,



Double Trigger, on course Photograph: George Selwyn

Hamed is asked to tone down antics

Boxing

It will be business as usual for Prince Naseem Hamed in his first defence of the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title at the London Arena on 9 December.

The Boxing Board of Control sent Hamed a letter congratulating him on his title triumph over Steve Robinson in Cardiff last month, with a gentle request effectively asking him to try to stop humiliating the man in front of him.

"My attitude is that I'm a pure winner," said Hamed, who defends his newly-won nine-stone title against the unbeaten Mexican Arnulfo Castillo a fortnight before Christmas.

"If you ask if I'm going to change my style or calm down, it depends who the opponent is. If I have to do what I do to win, I've got to do it."

"I'm not holding back for anything. I've listened to the Boxing Board and spoken to secretary John Morris. The letter congratulated me on winning the title, but it didn't exactly say, 'If you do that again...'"

"It said to try not to do it, it didn't say, 'Do not do that.' A lot of people like it, some people don't. It worked against Steve Robinson. You saw him get mentally broken up in such a fashion, so it must have done something."

Presuming the 24-year-old Castillo goes the way of all Hamed's foes, next stop could be a defence in the Middle East. His promoter, Frank Warren, has had a "substantial offer" from an Arab country to host a fight at the end of February.

Confusion ruled yesterday over reports that Frank Warren's World Boxing Council heavyweight title defence against Mike Tyson is being lined up for Las Vegas on 16 March.

Bruno's promoter, Frank Warren, gave a "no comment" to a report that the American boxing barons have switched the Tyson fight from Britain to America in the rapid wake of Lewis's legal action to prevent Bruno-Tyson delaying his own campaign to regain the WBC title. The legal campaign would thus intensify in the High Court on Thursday when a decision will be made on Lewis's bid for an injunction to preserve his claim to fight for the title ahead of Tyson.

Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, said: "As far as we know, up until Friday night the World Boxing Council had not sanctioned the fight."

John Morris, the Board secretary, said: "All of this is complete news to us. I haven't been advised of any contracts between Bruno and Tyson."

England left on the European fringes

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

As the Rugby Football Union has done nothing but pool-pool everyone else's European Rugby Cup, there is nothing the best of rugby-playing Europe would like better than for the prototype competition that begins today to be a roaring success.

The satisfaction would come not only from putting in place a level of sub-international competition deemed vital by all concerned (England included), but from sticking up two fingers at the RFU's rejectionist stance.

It is, however, scarcely an auspicious start to have the first match in Romania, where Toulouse play Farul in the Black Sea port of Constanta. "I would have been far happier if it had started with a big game within the UK, but it's a tournament which has been very difficult to put together," Vernon Pugh, the Welsh Rugby Union chairman, said.

Pugh's view - shared by the French, Irish, Italians and Romanians, as well as the Scots, who are signed up for next season - is that it is better to get on immediately with a European competition, however imperfect. The RFU's appears to be that English clubs will eventually participate, but only if everyone else meekly falls in with the RFU's requirements.

This is not going down well with its own clubs, not that they know there is already £7m a year in television and sponsorship money available to participants. When this was announced last week, the first thing Tony Haller, the RFU secretary, did was pour further scorn on the competition. Pugh insists that this commercial backing is not dependent on English involvement next season, although it would certainly help, not only in giving the European Rugby Cup credibility but also in helping it fulfil its principal objective: to elevate the standard of European players.

"I believe it is an absolutely essential part of the Northern hemisphere game if we are ever going to compete effectively against the Southern hemisphere - the closest we will get to an effective one being the RFU's rejectionist stance."

"We felt more strongly than others that it had to happen sooner rather than later."

The tempo will pick up tomorrow when Swansea, the Welsh Cup holders, meet Munster in Limerick, the Irish province fielding an entire pack of internationals as well as both half-backs. Four pools of three will each provide one semi-finalist, with the final to be played at Cardiff Arms Park on 7 January - provided the finalists include Cardiff, Pontypool or Swansea.

The Fijian tourists, who play at Treorchy tomorrow, have been warned by their coach, the former All Black prop Brad Johnstone, to cut out dirty play after a number of ugly clashes marked their 22-21 defeat by Cardiff on Saturday.

RED CAR		HYPERION	
1.45 Avon (nap)	3.15 Guestimation		
2.15 Mavril Mill	3.45 Jerry Cutrona		
2.45 Confide	4.15 Don't Worry Me		

GOING: From Good to Firm in places.

STALLS: Brightly come - centre; remainder - lulls.

DRAW: Aylesbury (2) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100) (101) (102) (103) (104) (105) (106) (107) (108) (109) (110) (111) (112) (113) (114) (115) (116) (117) (118) (119) (120) (121) (122) (123) (124) (125) (126) (127) (128) (129) (130) (131) (132) (133) (134) (135) (136) (137) (138) (139) (140) (141) (142) (143) (144) (145) (146) (147) (148) (149) (150) (151) (152) (153) (154) (155) (156) (157) (158) (159) (160) (161) (162) (163) (164) (165) (166) (167) (168) (169) (170) (171) (172) (173) (174) (175) (176) (177) (178) (179) (180) (181) (182) (183) (184) 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sport

Does the word professional mean that you are paid something for playing or that you obtain your living from the game?

"Who's in charge of the clattering train?" Lord Beaverbrook used to ask when he was displeased, as he often was, with the running of one of his newspapers. I have been asking the same question ever since rugby union turned professional. Next week Tony Hallett, Dudley Wood's recent successor as secretary of the Rugby Football Union – just as well, given Wood's hostility to professionalism – is to reveal his proposals for the reorganisation of the game. I do not intend to anticipate them but to offer some preliminary reflections instead.

The first is that those who believe that the game can or should provide its participants with full-time employment are living in cloud-cuckoo land. The money is simply not there.

Rob Andrew will be all right at Newcastle – until his contract runs out or is terminated (as I trust does not happen). The same applies to Dean Ryan, with the same qualifications, as it does also to Nick Popplewell, Steve Bates and others who are offered and accept Sir John Hall's shilling.

Other English and Welsh First Division clubs may follow, to a greater or lesser extent. Leicester, for instance, have already decided to pay their players.

The analogy with cricket is instructive. The old-fashioned three-day, now four-day, county game does not support a fully professional structure. Only a few fuddy-duddies such as myself are interested in it. The counties have accordingly come up with no fewer than three

Mickey Mouse competitions, which appeal to those who are more easily pleased.

But the real income – which enables the counties to maintain their rickety professional structure – derives from their cut of Test match proceeds. The game is not truly professional, in that only a few players obtain a full-time income from it.

The trouble arises from the definition of the word "professional". Does it mean that you are paid something for playing – or, what is very different, that you obtain a living from the game? Practitioners of football, tennis or golf are in the latter group. Cricketers and rugby league players are, most of them, in the former. Rugby union players will be lucky to do as well financially as these.



ALAN WATKINS
on rugby

Then there is the question of contracts. Should a player's contract be with his club, with the RFU or, as separate contracts, with both? The RFU can certainly place under contract individual players who are

members of the England squad. They may even extend it to selected young players who will, they hope, become members of the squad in due course – but these contracts must co-exist with club contracts.

Phil de Glanville of Bath was quoted in the *Independent* on Sunday as wanting a contract with his club alone, containing a proviso that he would be released to play for England. He also said: "You can't have two employers."

De Glanville seems to have misunderstood the position. We are not talking about employers. For example, I have separate contracts, to write on politics for the *Independent* on Sunday and on rugby for the *Independent*.

The journalist Craig Brown has

about half a dozen different contracts with various newspapers and magazines. A multiplicity of contracts is perfectly possible in all kinds of occupations.

The option of a single-club contract is, however, equally valid. So is that of two contracts, one with the club, the other with the RFU. What does not seem to me to make sense is a contract with the RFU and with that body alone. This is what Rob Smith, the beleaguered Wasps coach, recommends for all First Division players, adding that the contract should "say they receive extra if picked for England".

But there is no purpose in a common-form contract for all First Division players. The whole point of a contract is that it should specify a payment for a given task or perfor-

mance over a certain period of time. Wasps can decide whether to pay Damian Hopley more than Nick Greenstock, or vice versa. It is not and should not be a matter within the RFU's competence.

There is an even more important consideration. How on earth can the English union enter into a contract with, say, the Bath players Simon Geoghegan of Ireland and David Hilton, together with Eric Peters of Scotland?

Last season the RFU had the impudence to proclaim that in future the number of non-England-qualified players in First Division clubs would be drastically restricted, if not eliminated completely. This monstrous restraint of trade is now clearly unlawful, if it was not so previously.

Rusedski enjoys a bumpy ride

Four months ago I played a couple of games of tennis against a little known former Canadian tennis player reputed to possess the world's fastest serve. I wanted to face Britain's newest acquisition, to size him up both on and off the court.

We had a lot of fun that day, and as we bade our farewells, I wished him luck for the forthcoming tournaments at Queen's, the following week, Nottingham and Wimbledon.

Nice guy, that Greg Rusedski, even if I never saw the tennis ball. He possessed an endearing mix of excited anticipation, great energy and wide-eyed innocence, together with an obvious talent for tennis that made him stand out from the rest of his new-found, but depressingly average compatriots.

We spoke of what might lay ahead, but neither of us could have predicted the roller-coaster ride Rusedski has since enjoyed and endured in equal measures.

It is difficult to think of another sportsman who has, in such a small space of time, turned from a relative unknown to a household name and national hero, then to public enemy No 1. Today he makes his debut in the British national championships at Telford.

First, we had the unknown stage in the evolution of a British tennis star. Montreal-born Rusedski finally obtained his British status last May, thanks to his mother from Dewsbury and his girlfriend from Purley, whom the young man had been living with for four years, just in time for the English grass season.

"I knew that Britain desperately needed a top tennis player, and I knew that success on the court would bring some support off it," Rusedski admits. "But I was making comparisons only with my previous experiences, which was in Canada. I underestimated, and miscalculated what was going to happen next."

Rusedski was then swept along by a fervently patriotic Wimbledon crowd into the second week of the tournament, beating the likes of France's Guy Forget along the way, wearing Union Jack bandanas and becoming, at least for 10 days, the face of British sport, if not quite the voice.

Had Greg filling the backs of the newspapers, the front covers of magazines, the inside pages, together with his urbane actress girlfriend, Lucy Connor. Within a short space of time the nation knew of Greg's every movement, from brushing his teeth, to driving his car. We all loved Greg, and Greg loved us all.

"I just didn't expect it," he now says, with the benefit of hindsight. "I mean, I knew I might get some support if I did

FACE TO FACE

Ian Stafford meets a tennis player with a lot to prove at this week's Nationals

well at Wimbledon, but even at Queen's and Nottingham, where I lost in the first rounds, everyone was shouting for me.

As for Wimbledon, the attention was a bit like a blitz. I thought it would take at least a couple of years, and a great deal more success, before I even got close to such support and attention, but it just seemed to take off."

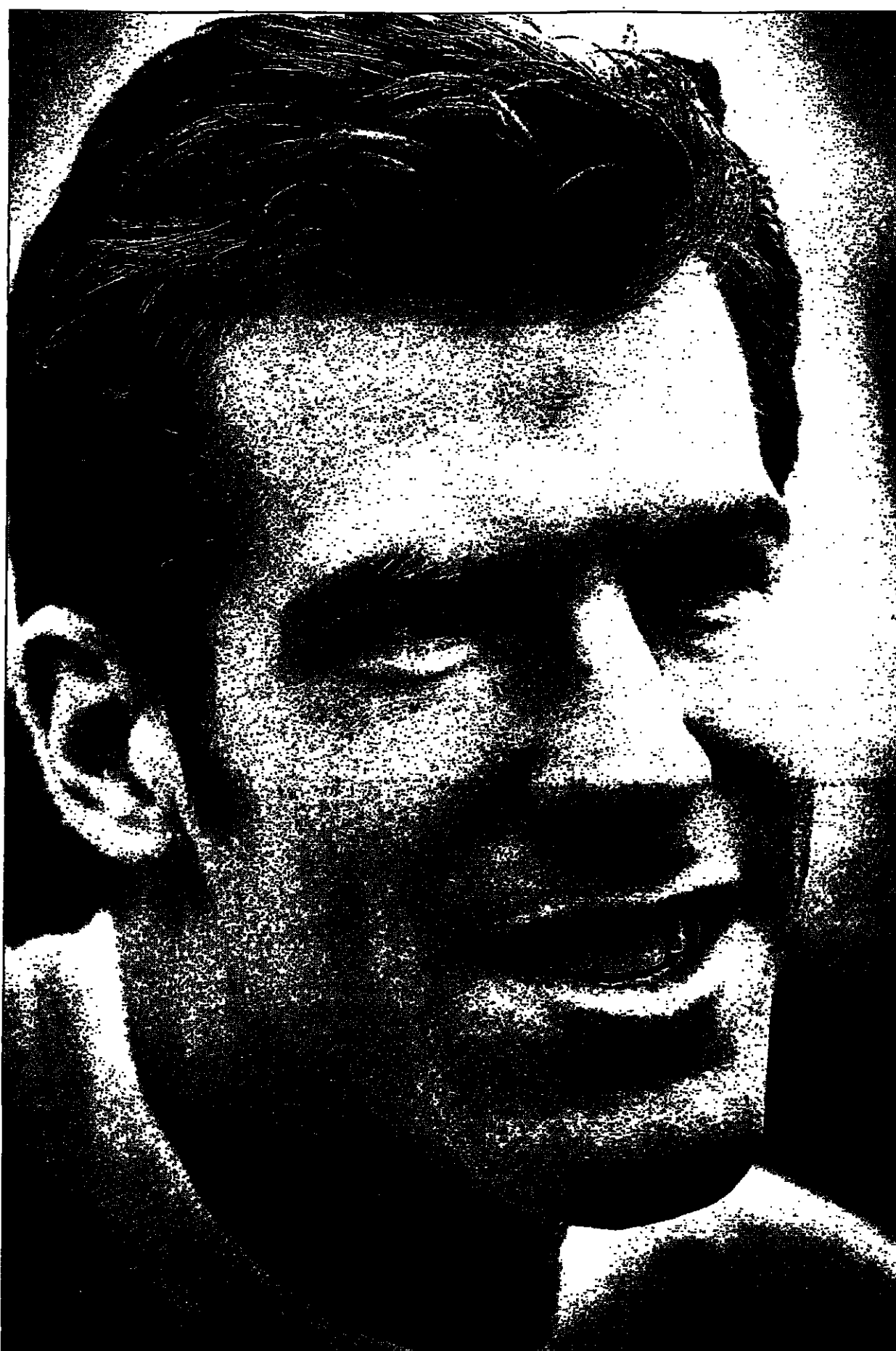
On a PR front the whole exercise worked like a dream, even if his Union Jack bandana suggested to some that he was trying a little too hard to be British. "Yeah, I heard that as well," he said. "But I never really felt I had to prove myself to anyone in that respect. You have top sportspeople who represent Britain or England in other sports who were born elsewhere, and they do not have to prove their national allegiance. No, the bandana was just part of the whole, crazy week. I got caught up in it as much as everyone else."

There was even a time when he began to believe he could go the whole way. "Wimbledon was the first Grand Slam tournament I've played in where I began to think I could actually win it," he said. "The ground was hard and fast, I was serving and playing well, and I was on a roll. It was my bad luck that when I played Sampras he was just too good for me. I firmly believe that if he had played like he had in the first week, I would have beaten him, and then who knows?"

Still, a very satisfying week, followed by a victorious and overwhelming display in the Davis Cup, even if it was only against Monaco. Then, the return to Wimbledon for the first time since his "defection", to play in the Canadian Open.

"I felt like O J Simpson on trial," he said. "The Canadian press were appalling. They called me a traitor, and accused me of turning my back on my country and my support, and even accused me of failing to pay back the money that had been invested in me."

Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, two of the greatest players the world's ever seen, played in front of a crowd of 500 people. I played against Michael Joyce in front of 7,500. Many of them had signs saying, 'Go Home Rusedski', or wore T-shirts with 'Death to Greg' written on them, or with pic-



Service with a smile: Greg Rusedski, who made a big impression at Wimbledon

Photograph: Robert Hallam

tures of my face and a hangman's noose.

"I actually translated these as death threats, and employed bodyguards for the whole week, while I was in town. When I served, people screamed foul while the ball was in the air, and when I first walked on to the court, someone from the crowd threw a tennis ball at me."

He pauses, the toothy grin leaving him for a few moments. "I'm only a tennis player, after all."

He lost, but was then persuaded to play in the doubles with the London-based Kenyan, Paul Wekesa. "I asked him if he knew what he was letting himself into. We played in the evening, in front of an 11,000 full-house. I was subjected to the same treatment, and Paul

was so scared he couldn't hit the ball over the net. We lost the first set, and the crowd went crazy but, somehow, we managed to win the next two and the match. As I hit the winning point, the whole hall went dead silent, like the saloons in westerns when the gunman walks in."

Perhaps thankfully, Rusedski and Wekesa lost in their second doubles match. "I think it was harder for my parents and Lucy, who were in the crowd, than for me." Maybe, but he has no intentions of returning, even if the Canadian is one of the "top line" tournaments in the world.

Now, following a string of mediocre results, apart from a semi-final appearance in Basle,

Rusedski plays in Telford today against the world's 1,241st ranked player, Colin Bennet, in his bid to win his first national championships, and prise the title away from the perennial winner, Jeremy Bates. On the face of it, he has not lived up to the promise revealed so splendidly at Wimbledon.

"In some respects I'd accept that," he conceded. "But only because I also have high expectations of myself. Actually, I have achieved my goal of getting inside the top 40 in the world, but I'm still playing too many sloppy shots."

Rusedski has introduced the veteran Australian coach, Warren Jacques, the man who took Kevin Curren to a Wimbledon final, to his entourage. "I'm only

22, and I reckon the next four years will be make or break time. I reckon it's possible to get into the top 20 by next Wimbledon, which could get me a seeding. Whatever happens, I'm going to improve."

In the meantime, he has to deal with a host of British tennis players who will be looking for his scalp, especially those like Mark Petchey, who criticised his easy passage into British ranks.

A good four months then, Greg? "A crazy four months, more like. I'd prefer a more stable time ahead. If we meet this time next year, I hope you won't have heard quite so much about me, but I will be speaking to you as the world's number 20."

Montgomerie sets himself new agenda

Europe's leading golfer wants more, says Tim Glover

discuss everything. She is a very positive person and she takes all the worries off me."

Montgomerie – "you need a consistent home life" – also paid tribute to his caddy, Alastair McLean, a history graduate from Stirling University. "Other players may disagree but I think I've got the best caddy on tour," Montgomerie said. "He never gives up and is always encouraging me. Apart from anything else we're great friends."

What, Monty was asked, is McLean's most valuable asset?

"Me," he replied.

If the prolonged rivalry between Montgomerie and Torrance was one of the highlights of the European season, the Volvo Masters also produced, in the

ORDER OF MERIT

1. G. Montgomerie (Scot) £335,051.40
2. A. Torrance (Scot) £275,000.00
3. A. Langer (Ger) £185,854.17
4. C. Niessens (Bel) £153,320.26
5. M. Campbell (Eng) £140,977.33
6. A. Ogden (Scot) £130,314.99
7. M. Jander (Scot) £121,377.84
8. J. Lauer (Ger) £121,406.12
9. A. Forsbrand (Swe) £121,728.17
10. P. O'Grady (Aus) £120,726.67
11. W. Riey (Aus) £120,692.43
12. H. Clark (Eng) £120,000.00
13. P. Worsley (Scot) £119,106.39
14. D. Clotie (N. Ir) £117,175.42
15. D. Elliott (Scot) £112,048.83

24-year-old Cejka, a player of the future. His goal at the beginning of the year was to finish in the top 50 in the Order of Merit and, by his outstanding performance at Valderrama, he is sixth. He was the only player to finish under par on a course which, in two years' time will stage the Ryder Cup. Cejka has every chance of playing in it.

In 1980, when he was nine, Cejka was taken by his golf-mad father Peter out of Marienbad in Czechoslovakia. They travelled through Yugoslavia, Italy and Switzerland before settling in Germany.

By the age of 16 his handicap was down to scratch. A regular at the Qualifying School, he won the Thurepaan Open in March and the Austrian Open in August. That was when he had a bet with his coach, Peter Karz, a former caddy, that if he won in Austria they would both shave their heads.

From having shoulder-length hair Cejka, who has been burning some serious midnight oil at an indoor practice facility in Munich, appeared totally bald. When he went to the Munich beer festival this year he was refused admission because they thought he was a skinhead. He failed to qualify for the Open Championship in July but his victory in the Volvo Masters will open doors to the majors next year.

As for Montgomerie, his priority for 1996 is not to emulate Oosthuis's four in a row but to win a major championship and move alongside players like Norman, Price, Els and Faldo in the world rankings.

Whether by accident or design, as Faldo's personal problems were being aired in America, both Torrance and Montgomerie pointed out the benefits to their careers of a stable home life. Torrance proposed to his second wife, the former actress Suzanne Danielle, on the eve of the 1991 Ryder Cup.

He attributes his renaissance to their partnership. "I think I was always very anxious in my younger years," Torrance said. "But she calms me down. We

Resurgent McLaren proceed with caution

Motor racing
DAVID TREMAYNE
reports from Suzuka

"Two words we do not want to use are optimism and confidence." Ron Dennis said here on Saturday, and thereby hung a tale. Back in the grand old days when Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost ran riot in the Marlboro-McLaren Hondas, optimism and confidence were the sole preserve of the Woking team.

Since 1993, the path to victory has ended in a dead end for McLaren. For most of this

season, from the fiasco when Nigel Mansell could not fit into the car to the European Grand Prix at the Nurburgring where even Pedro Diniz in the Forti overtook Mika Hakkinen early in the race, team faces have alternately matched the red and white colours of the cars.

But for the first time in 1995 McLaren looked like their old selves at the Japanese Grand Prix, working with all their traditional smoothness and consistency as Hakkinen narrowly missed out on a position on the front row of the grid before finishing a competitive second.

There have been some glimmers of the old spark this year, but this was a convincing, repeatable performance.

Dennis's caution is understandable in the somewhat reduced circumstances in which this team have found themselves, but Suzuka gave a genuine indication that McLaren may be on their way back for 1996.

Since Michael Schumacher rose to real prominence last year, we have become used to a Benetton v Williams fight for championship honours, with floating intervention from Ferrari. With Schumacher bound

for the Prancing Horse, the Italian team will surely raise their game, while Benetton, who secured their first constructors' championship in Suzuka, will have a different set of united colours as Berger and Jean Alesi transfer from Ferrari.

While both have the speed and experience to win, it remains to be seen how they cope with running two cars with equal focus, and whether the absence of Schumacher's contribution in any way blunts its potency.

McLaren is the closest to Benetton in pitwork and strategy, two areas in which Williams

has been questionable for some time, and Dennis understands how to motivate his drivers.

The manner in which McLaren has ploughed away at getting its car right is confirmation of its latent strength and depth of financial resource, although two years of failure has inevitably raised some probing questions on both scores. Williams, meanwhile, must stop turning in on itself in times of crisis, and needs instead to indulge in a little introspective morale rebuilding and critical self-analysis during the winter.

Hakkinen and David Coulthard will have good people behind them at McLaren next year, and Mercedes-Benz has been making quiet but consistent (and often concealed) progress.

Under Mercedes' influence, the team is more open and less preening than it was in the halcyon days which secured 65 victories and three titles apiece for Senna and Prost. A dose of adversity and humility can often do people good. After Suzuka, the portents for McLaren – and a four-way fight for the 1996 World Championship – are looking up.

TOUR FACTS AND FIGURES

Lowest round: 67 (14) Alexander Ojeda (Uruguay); (-14) Russell Clayton (Ger); (-15) Mark James (Scot); (-16) Anders Forsberg (Germ); (-17) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-18) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-19) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-20) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-21) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-22) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-23) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-24) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-25) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-26) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-27) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-28) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-29) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-30) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-31) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-32) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-33) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-34) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-35) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-36) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-37) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-38) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-39) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-40) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-41) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-42) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-43) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-44) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-45) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-46) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); (-47) Jarmo Sandelin (Fin); 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SPORT

ALAN WATKINS: Rugby's professionalism dilemma
IAN STAFFORD: Face to face with Greg Rusedski

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Hitting out: Mike Tyson, who fights Buster Mathis Jr in Las Vegas on Saturday, goes through his paces in a public work-out. More boxing, page 23. Photograph: Al Bello/Allsport

All stadium bidders may taste victory

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Only one of five contending cities will be completely happy at today's scheduled announcement on the location of the new national stadium.

Even if a restructured Wembley gets the nod from the Sports Council's steering committee – the most likely outcome – a variety of other funding options mean that this is a party from which everyone may yet walk away with a balloon.

The Sports Council is already committed to assisting Manchester in building a stadium for the 2002 Commonwealth Games from its own capital funding scheme. Other aspirants, such as Bradford, which seeks the relatively small amount of £40m from Lottery funding, can proceed with some hope, judging by the Sports Council's stance.

"We said there was a need for one national stadium by the turn of the century," said Jonathan O'Neil, the Sports Council's spokesman. "We haven't said that there is not a need for large stadiums around the country. There is a lot of Lottery money, and we have ring-fenced around 10 per cent for that type of project over the next few years."

The main challenge facing any large facility will be to find sufficiently profitable activities to take place in their stadium, given that the national stadium will claim the lion's share.

Sheffield's late switch to a project involving separate stadiums for athletics and field sports such as rugby and football strays outside the steering group's stated goal of creating a single, all-purpose stadium capable of hosting major sporting events.

The bidding cities – London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield and Bradford – were questioned in detail during final presentations to the steering group at the end of last week. "It is going to be a tough final call," O'Neil said. "There are so many different factors involved, and it is difficult to say that one bid is clearly ahead of the others. But there will be a definitive statement on the day."

The aspirations of Wembley and Bradford have been tempered by the need to adjust their claims so they fall within the technical requirements of the National Lottery scheme. Both bids involve plans, which need to transform themselves into non-profit making trusts before Lottery money can be forthcoming. "We cannot have public monies bolstering up plans," O'Neil said.

The problem does not apply to Manchester, where the bid is going through the City Council, or Sheffield, which already has a trust in place. Whoever gains the steering group's recommendation will have to apply from scratch for National Lottery funds – because bids for money cannot be solicited.

Juninho deal nearly complete

Football

vious Hodgson made his rest of pressing through are confident

We spininho will make his ahead, but debut against have greeted at the Riverside stadium on Saturday as they near a settlement of the dispute with São Paulo over the payment of the £4.75m fee.

The club say half that money will be paid to the Brazilians within 48 hours as soon as an international certificate is received. Keith Lamb, Middlesbrough's chief executive, said: "I understand it's on its way. We expect him to play against Leeds."

Juninho trained yesterday less than 24 hours after arriving on Teesside following his flight from South America. "He will be eased in gradually. We will have a full scale practice match on Thursday, when he will be given the role we want him to play," his manager, Bryan Robson, said.

Manchester United have learned that the Football Association does not intend to extend Roy Keane's punishment beyond the statutory four-match ban for being sent off against Middlesbrough on Saturday. "It was a football offence," an FA spokesman said, "and we consider the correct suspension is already in place."

United have cooled speculation they are about to buy Auxerre's Algerian midfielder, Moussa Saib, to fill the right flank position vacated by the transferred Andrei Kanchelskis. "We are aware of Saib," their manager, Alex Ferguson said, "but we haven't made any approach."

The FA says the former Arsenal manager, George Graham, is unlikely to face further punishment despite his admission in a tabloid newspaper yesterday that he took transfer bungs.

"Everything I have read so far appears to have been covered

by the Commission of Inquiry," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said. That inquiry imposed a worldwide ban on Graham for 12 months.

Tottenham and Newcastle are facing an FA inquiry into Ruel Fox's £4.5m transfer. Both Spurs and Kevin Keegan's club will be asked if an unlicensed agent – Steve Kutner – was involved in the deal.

The FA wrote to both clubs yesterday as part of their crack-down on moves involving agents who have not paid their £100,000 bond to Fifa, world football's governing body. The probe could be embarrassing for Spurs' chairman, Alan Sugar, who has been tough in his criticism of football's irregularities.

The London-based Kutner has still to get a licence, the FA revealed last night, although they state he is "in the process" of applying for one. Because Kutner was involved in the deal on Fox's behalf the FA is investigating.

Under Fifa's rules Fox could be fined and banned for using an unlicensed agent, while the clubs could at worst be suspended from all competitions.

The Republic of Ireland could be without two midfield players for their European Championship qualifier in Portugal on 15 November. Aston Villa's Steve Staunton is unlikely to be fit for another two weeks after injuring a hamstring while Sheffield Wednesday's John Sheridan had an operation on an injured knee yesterday.

The Leicester defender Steve Walsh also received some bad news yesterday when he learned he could be out for three months recovering from a sixth knee operation in two years. Carlisle's goalkeeper Tony Elliott, meanwhile, was detained in hospital for a further night after suffering internal bruising against Bournemouth on Saturday.

Tottenham have escaped censure from the Football Association over their use of the giant

television screen which so upset Kevin Keegan at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

The Newcastle manager is lobbying the FA to have the screen shut down during games, claiming the backdrop of giant television action is distracting and off-putting.

"Large screens such as the ones at Tottenham and Arsenal are superb facilities which add to spectator entertainment," the FA said. "However the FA has always stressed that clubs must ensure that use of screens during the match itself does not create problems either on or off the field of play."

The FA's powers to act are limited because there is nothing in the rules and regulations to cover this expensive technological development.

Keegan made comparisons with Highbury's two big screens, which are switched off during games. However, the FA believes they are not comparable because at Arsenal the screens

are very low down and would interfere with play if they were on during the game.

At Tottenham, the screen is very high up on top of the south stand and not in the direct line of vision of the players and officials. In addition, it cannot be seen by visiting fans placed in the south stand.

Keegan objected to the whole match being shown simultaneously on the big screen. He was particularly upset by the replay facility which could be inflammatory if it featured controversial incidents.

Tottenham have complied with FA advice to limit replays to uncontroversial incidents like home goals and near misses but were caught out on Sunday when they took a live feed from Sky Sports, switching back to their own fixed cameras when Keegan made his objection after the first 10 minutes.

Juninho picture, European preview, page 25

Salim awaits 'sledging'

Cricket

Salim Malik expects to face "sledging" in Australia in the wake of the bribery claims controversy. The former Pakistan captain, cleared 10 days ago of allegations he offered bribes to three Australians to play poorly in Pakistan last year, yesterday left to join his team-mates on their tour of Australia.

He said he could not predict what reception he would get, but was anticipating hostile comments on the field. "When I visited Australia for the first time many years ago I came across the word 'sledging' and experienced some of it. The only pressure on me is that I must get my batting form as quickly as possible. I have not played even domestic cricket and I am short of match practice."

Australia's Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh alleged Salim offered them bribes to

play poorly on their team's 1994 tour of Pakistan. Salim, who denied their charges, said he was going to Australia with the sole aim of playing cricket and, as far as he was concerned, the matter was closed after the inquiry set up by the Pakistan Cricket Board exonerated him.

The Australian Cricket Board has criticised the game's ruling body, the International Cricket Council, for not carrying out its own investigation into the allegations against Salim.

The ICC will not comment for a week on Australia's criticism, saying yesterday that only its chief executive, David Richards, was authorised to speak to the media and he would not be in his office until next Monday.

Salim added: "Now the matter is between the two boards and I would not offer any comment on any aspect of the incident here in Pakistan or anywhere else."

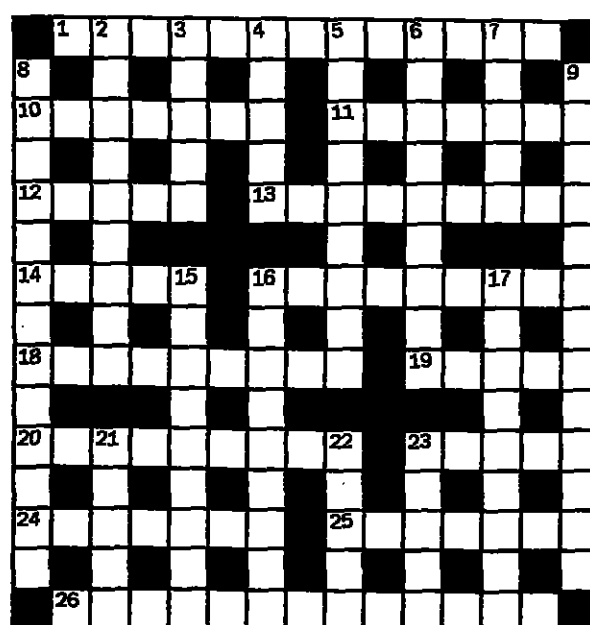
England give up on Malcolm, page 25

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

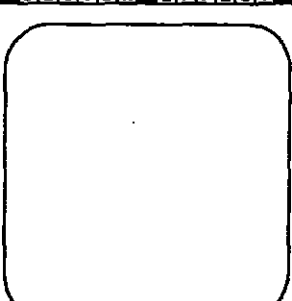
No 2819, Tuesday 31 October

By Aislin

Monday's Solution



CANARD ASSERT
 PENITENT ALEOP
 AU LUPIN
 PEAK ALLTHETIME
 E L E E S T S
 ROSEMARY HEELS
 W E V C H U
 ELVER COMPILER
 IT E G U I
 GALLIVANTS ACTS
 H L M T R G O E
 TRACE HAIRLINE
 G N E T E I
 SECTOR EFFECT



ACROSS

- 1 You might find bull here in cattle market? (5,8)
- 10 Ref's arrival limits effectiveness? (7)
- 11 Person in seaside feature who leads the way? (7)
- 12 Note the decaying molar? (5)
- 13 Chants may upset sailor (9)
- 14 One can provide drive that's 22 yards long? (5)
- 16 Use preventive medicine on one acute invalid about 50 (9)
- 18 Left awfully curious about daughter being crazy? (9)
- 19 Some position I cherish? (5)
- 20 Reportedly ruined fish's shape? (9)

DOWN

- 23 Used words in this part of the cycle? (5)
- 24 Street turned into a place for action? (7)
- 25 Not an unbeatable part of the orchestra? (7)
- 26 Battling there, trapped in more than a straight fight? (5-8)
- 2 Dining room retailer perhaps has reached a plateau? (9)
- 3 Cathy didn't finish embracing cold fish? (5)
- 4 Noble yen to be primitive (5)
- 5 Do better with account? What'll have to be paid is huge? (9)
- 6 Complete change makes a fit go (5-4)

Callard's apology is a sign of the new times

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

England players about to have professional contracts thrust upon them now know that under their terms they will be confined to the blandest public pronouncements after Jonathan Callard yesterday had to apologise for criticising the referee of last Saturday's Bath-Saracens match.

Tony Hallett, the Rugby Football Union secretary, will have the contracts with him at the England session at Marlow tonight when Callard, who is hoping to regain his place at full-back against South Africa on 18 November, can expect an official reproof.

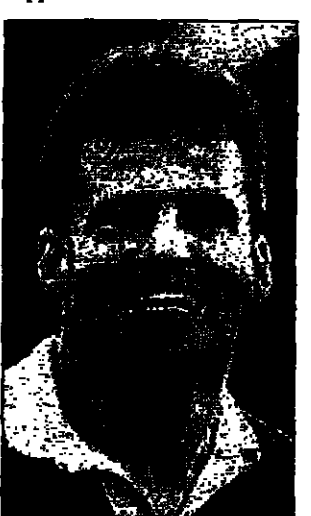
His offence was to call Steve Lander's refereeing "appalling and embarrassing" on Sunday's *Rugby Special*, even though Bath had won the game 52-16. Yesterday Callard said: "It was probably an unwise remark and I apologise for it. But all top players are hoping that the whole referee issue will be sorted out so that there can be more enjoyment for all concerned, including the referees."

Such outspokenness will not be tolerated under the professional regime. "Something as fundamental as criticising referees in public should be avoided," Hallett said. "It will not be possible to do that in the future when players will be contracted

and conditions laid down. It was certainly a pity that he chose to make his comments on TV, where we all have to be careful."

"In the new era of an open sport, much more advice will be available to players in an effort to eliminate this sort of comment made impromptu and under the pressure of a TV interview."

The England team, with Will Carling a racing certainty to continue as captain, will be named on Wednesday. The Springboks will be without Bheke Swart, who has a groin injury and will be replaced at prop against both Italy on 12 November and England by the uncapped Tobs van der Linde.



Callard: 'unwise remark'

Scotland, too, are, on the verge of agreeing professional contracts, certainly in time for the Western Samoa game on 18 November, when they will be without the concussed Scott Hastings.

After the trauma of losing four players to Newcastle, Wasps were relieved to have some good news to announce yesterday: the £2.5m redevelopment of their ground at Sudbury in north-west London and the creation of a regional rugby centre of excellence.

The main pitch will be turned 90 degrees and the present capacity of around 4,000 increased to an all-seated 7,500, with room to add. The club yesterday applied for planning permission to Brent council, from which they have acquired 4.5 acres of land to provide extra playing space and car parking. Work is due to start next April and be completed by Christmas 1996.

West Hartlepool, bottom of the First Division, are to hold a crisis players' meeting this week to discuss the resignation of their captain, Phil Lancaster. Cardiff have again been re-buffed by Warrington in their efforts to repatriate Jonathan Davies from English rugby league to Welsh rugby union, despite having increased their offer for the Wales RL captain from £30,000 to £55,000.

European Cup preview, page 23

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Tuesday 31 October 1995

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